

Introductory sentence

And He who sat upon the throne said, "Behold I make all things new." And he said unto me. "Write: for these words are true and faithful."
(Revelation 21 v 5. King James version)

Prayer

Lord of the years, we ask Your blessing on this New Year. Give us the resilience to bear its disappointments, energy to seize its opportunities and openness to accept the more abundant life which You have promised to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Bible Reading

2 Corinthians 5 v 17 & 18

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, Who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Reflection

From our introductory sentence we see that God indeed does make all things new. We know that seeds, plants and bulbs that were planted will in the new year bring forth a new supply of flowers, vegetables and fruit but we know that things are not always that simple and we don't have quite such a good harvest, so with ourselves things may not be as good as we hoped. Hence the prayer asking God for resilience to deal with

disappointment. Jesus faced the same problems, but with His help and strength we will seize the new opportunities given to us and accept the abundant life Jesus gives us.

Hymn

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thought of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

Prayer

Lord, may I be wakeful at sunrise to begin a new day for You, cheerful at sunset for having done my work for You; thankful at moon rise and under starshine for the beauty of the universe. And may I add what little may be in me to Your great world.

Bible Reading

Ezekiel 36 v 26 & 27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my

Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Reflection

I consider myself very fortunate as I start off the new year with a new birthday, to me it makes all things feel new, but I also look back on the old year, how God has led me through the good and happy things. I thank him for the joy of family and friends. There have also been turbulent times, disappointments and hurts, when I have cried out to God for his help and guidance. I know that God has walked beside me in all these situations. He has taught me to lean on him and to trust him.

Things may not turn out in quite the way I expected, after all he is the God of surprises.

Hymn

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we need to ask,
room to deny ourselves,
a road to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

Blessing

May God bless us and all those whom we love as we go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory throughout the year. Amen



www.caraway.uk.com
caraway@caraway.uk.com

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