



PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Liam Lawton

from

The Hope Prayer: Words to Nourish the Soul

Lord

As I quench the lamp
And close the door on the past year
May I find the words of gratitude
To honor this passing time
The gift of Your design

For all that's come and gone
For decisions right and wrong
For unsung songs
I offer words of thanks.

For days when life had plenty
For nights when hearts were empty
For undiscovered plains
When all was ventured but nothing gained
Through struggle and through pain
May we learn to rise again

Now at this threshold time
Make our hearts refined
To dream new dreams
Beyond our own imagining

May we step into new places
Where courage will take us
Beyond our limited spaces.

May we never lose the courage to seek
For a better world
Where no child will cry hungry
While another is bored with too much

Where war is remembered in hushed tones
A memory of forgotten days
Where color and creed can celebrate
With pride, their different ways.

And may Your gentleness O Lord
Exude from every heart
May this New Year be a year
Of many blessings
Where new vision
Will transform the paralyzed places
Of lonely hearts
Where we will discover
The hidden beauty of each soul
All who cross our pathways.

And if we meet with sorrow
May we find an inner light
To guide us to the bright place
In the company of friends and family
In the company of love.

May each moment of every month
Unveil Your abiding presence
In beautiful surprises
Re-awakening the child
Within each one of us.

Lord

bless us
And all we hold so dear
That You might guide the way
At the birthing of the year.