

Seedlings 🌲: "Leavetaking" on a New Year's Eve



## **“Leavetaking”**

*Nearing the start of that mysterious last season  
Which brings us to the close of the other four,  
I’m somewhat afraid and don’t know how to  
prepare  
So I will praise you.*

*I will praise you for the glaze on buttercups  
And for the pearly scent of wild fresh water  
And the great crossbow shapes of swans flying  
over  
With that strong silken threshing sound of wings  
Which you gave them when you made them  
without voices.*

*And I will praise you for crickets.  
On starry autumn nights  
When the earth is cooling  
Their rusty diminutive music  
Repeated over and over  
Is the very marrow of peace.*

*And I praise you for crows calling from treetops  
The speech of my first village,  
And for the sparrow's flash of song  
Flinging me in an instant  
The joy of a child who woke  
Each morning to the freedom  
Of her mother's unclouded love  
And lived in it like a country.*

*And I praise you that from vacant lots  
From only broken glass and candy wrappers  
You raise up the blue chicory flowers.*

*I thank you for that secret praise  
Which burns in every creature,  
And I ask you to bring us to life  
Out of every sort of death*

*And teach us mercy.*

*--- by Anne Porter*



## Prayer for a New Year: "Help Us Enter the New Year"

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,  
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,  
mindful that our steps make an impact  
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,  
help us enter the New Year reverently,  
aware that you have endowed  
every creature and plant, every person and habitat  
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,  
help us enter the New Year joyfully,

willing to laugh and dance and dream,  
remembering our many gifts with thanks  
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.  
In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless  
us now and in the days ahead.

*---by Vinita Hampton Wright*

## **On the Fifth Day of Christmas...**



### ***Why five golden rings on the 5th Day of Christmas?***

*The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.*

*These five books are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, which speak of the Biblical accounts of the creation of the world, the history of humanity's woundedness, God's response of grace and mercy, and God keeping the line of Messiah intact.*





To find out more about the 12 Days of Christmas or click [HERE](#).

## Christmas at Sts. Peter and Paul...



**Remember Christmas Eve 2023  
morning and evening  
with Sts. Peter and Paul by clicking  
[HERE.](#)**



*A Liturgy of the Resurrection and Service of Thanksgiving for the  
Life of*

***Robert Steven Kavicky***

*December 28th, Missoula, Montana, Rev. Julie Long, officiant.*

*Please click on the file below:*

 [Robert Kavicky Service Missoula.pdf](#)



**"This Is Why Jesus Wept"**

*a gift column by Peter Wehner.*

*Please read by clicking [HERE](#) .*



## ***"In the Bleak Midwinter"***

*Composed by Gustav Holst, arranged by Ola Gjeilo  
and performed shimmeringly by Voces8.*

***Listen by clicking [HERE](#) .***





*The Seedlings E-Newsletters are now  
archived  
on the website of the congregation.  
Take a look by clicking [HERE](#) .*



*For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water...  
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).*

**Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.**

**For continuing live streaming of the  
liturgy  
please click [HERE](#).**



**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for viewing at a later date.**



**[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)**

**Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. -  
Noon**

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