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.

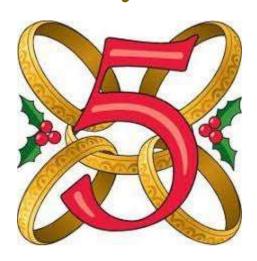
May we honor rather than destroy.

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 <u>HERE</u>.

Christmas at Sts. Peter and Paul...



Remember Christmas Eve 2023 morning and evening with Sts. Peter and Paul by clicking <u>HERE</u>.



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:





"This Is Why Jesus Wept"

a gift column by Peter Wehner. Please read by clicking <u>HERE</u>.



"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 <u>HERE</u>.



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 <u>HERE</u>.

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



www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org
Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. Noon