

Congregational Prayer – For New Years

Lord, we stand at the door of this New Year,
thankful for the year behind us,
a gift through which we've lived and moved.
At this timely threshold, with our feet poised to walk into (*year*),
we turn to you with our prayer of hope.
Hope springs eternal when we walk with you.
Help us walk this year with you.
We hope that this will be a year filled
with joy, with love, with laughter,
a year filled with plenty and abundance, with purpose and fulfillment.
But if the year brings hard times and hurt, pain and sorrow, tears and trials,
we know that your care and comfort will console us month by month.
Grace us with forgiving spirits.
As a community help us walk
with the happy and the sorrowful,
holding their stories tenderly.
We hope for peace in our time, for an end to wild war music.
We long to hear the sound of governments
listening to their people, heeding their pleas for justice.
We long to hear the sound of the children of the world
cheering together because peace has been declared,
and they do not have to fear anymore.
We hope for healing for our beloved earth,
for harmony and balance where we have caused disharmony and imbalance.
This year, Lord, help us to feel in our bones the beauty of this life, this world;
its sounds and sights and smells and tastes, the lavishness of being
which you give us in seconds and minutes
and hours and days and weeks and months.
Move in us, have your way with us,
so that on the last day of this year
we can say, wholeheartedly, this year has been a gift
through which we've lived and moved
as followers of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Carol Penner (Canada), 2012. leadinginworship.com
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