

A BLESSING TO WELCOME THE NEW YEAR

**As the calendar turns, always beyond our control,
May we embrace the deep fragility we feel
As we watch time tick on.
And may we release our grip
with all the faith we can muster,
So that we can receive
the unfolding days ahead with grace.**

**As the midnight hour approaches,
May our hearts toast the loves and losses
Of these past days.
And may our glass be overflowing
with hard-won hope
For what will come.**

**As we close the complicated chapter
of this year that was,
May we open to the new story
that is set to be written.
And may we hear the invitation
to bravely author and craft a plot of love.**

**As the ball drops and we say goodbye
to this year we'll never forget,
May we remember (as it will surely slip our hearts),
that faith for better days
is the hope that grounds us through.
And may this hope be like a kiss of mercy
to help us say hello to this next year
with the open arms of love.**