

Almighty God, Whom no man by searching can find out, seek us and find us out, we pray. We would worship thee with hospitable hearts, welcoming thee to our minds and lives. Come, this day 1999, knock on the door and give us grace to open. Come to us in stimulating thoughts, clear insights, and illumined faith, in moving gratitude that makes us humble, in penitence that cleaves us, in a sense of vocation that challenges us. Come to us in a fresh vision of Christ, His grace and mercy, His call to our consciences, and His appeal to our strength.

As thus amid the earthquake, wind, and fire of this noisy world we wait for thy still, small voice, give us sensitive hearts to listen, teachable minds to learn, humble wills to obey. Here today let some revelation of thy light fall on our darkness, some guidance from thy wisdom save us in our bewilderment, some power from thine infinite resource strengthen us in our need.

For special help we pray as an old year ends and the unknown future, full of dangers, yet full of possibilities, opens before us. Make us great enough for these great days! Against all our sins that defeat thy holy purpose we pray, but especially ~~the~~ against the sins of littleness, meanness, prejudice, provincialism. Cast down our pride, national & personal. Make us humble, understanding, cooperative members of our one humanity.

For all who labor in church & state this coming year to bring sense & system into our disordered world, we pray with anxious hearts. Let no failures so frighten them, no difficulties so dishearten them or us, who stand behind them, that they surrender

to defeat. And, now that this New Year has come, God grant that our eyes may look upon a better world, traveling a highway toward peace & brotherhood.

For ourselves one by one we pray that we may be among the world's assets and not its liabilities. For strength to stand up in trouble, for courage to overcome temptation, for inward grace from divine resources to master life and not be mastered by it, we pray thee. Thru joy & sorrow, success and failure, the world's favor and the world's enmity, thru happy fellowships with those we love and thru bereavement when the bell tolls for them and us, God keep us steadfast, undefeated, undismayed, unashamed.

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Let the light shine on all of us today, making plain some answers to our questions, some assurance for our doubts, some strength for our weakness, some vision of our duty, and may we be more valiant and triumphant spirits because we have worshipped thee here. — Amen!