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Always Old, Ever New: A Litany for the New Year

Lee Magness
jlmagness@milligan.edu

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ALWAYS OLD, EVER NEW

A Litany for the New Year

By Lee Magness

Invocation

2 Restore us to yourself, O LORD,
1 that we may be restored;
2 renew our days
1 as of old. (Lamentations 5:21)¹

Hymn of Praise ~ Morning Has Broken Celebrating the Creator ~ Always Old, Ever New

Choral Reading

1 I am the Old.
2 I am the New.
1 I have learned from what is past.
2 I lean into what is yet to come.
1 Yet we are both today,
2 and together.
1 Always old,
2 and ever new.
3 *Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
Let them declare and set it forth
before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to
come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared
it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.*
(Isaiah 44:6–8)

1 I celebrate the One who is of old, the
Ancient of Days.
2 I celebrate the One who is new
every morning.
1 The first . . .
2 . . . the last.
1 The one who announced from of old . . .
2 . . . the things to come.
1 We celebrate the Rock besides whom
there is no rock,
2 and that we are his witnesses,

1 today,
2 together.
1 The steadfast love of the LORD never
ceases, his mercies never come to an
end;
2 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22–23)

1 What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what
will be done;
there is nothing new under the sun.
(Ecclesiastes 1:9)
2 And the one who was seated on the
throne said,
“See, I am making all things new.”
(Revelation 21:5)
1 Remember the days of old, consider the
years long past; ask your father, and he
will inform you; your elders, and they
will tell you. (Deuteronomy 32:7)
2 Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing.
(Isaiah 43:18–19)
2 O sing to the LORD a new song,
1 for he has done marvelous things.
(Psalm 98:1)

1 Always old,
2 and ever new.

Congregational Hymn ~ O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Celebrating the Christ ~ Always Old, Ever New

Choral Reading

1 I am the Old.
2 I am the New.
1 I have learned from what is past.
2 I lean into what is yet to come.
1 Yet we are both today,
2 and together.
1 Always old,
2 and ever new.
3 *I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
To him was given dominion and glory and
kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.*

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13–14)

1 I celebrate the One who is of old, who came to the Ancient One.

2 I celebrate the One who reigns forever.

1 The first . . .

2 . . . the last.

1 The one who was given dominion from of old . . .

2 . . . whose kingship will never be destroyed.

1 We celebrate the one who was and is and is to come,

2 and that we are his people,

1 today,

2 together.

1 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me One who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

2 They sing a new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,

1 for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;

2 you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.”

(Revelation 5:9)

1 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 31:31)

2 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.” (1 Corinthians 11:25)

1 For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

2 Therefore, let us celebrate the festival,

1 not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil,

2 but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

(1 Corinthians 5:7–8)

1 Always old,

2 and ever new.

Congregational Hymn ~ *Thanks to God for My Redeemer*

Communion

Celebrating the Church ~ Always Old, Ever New

Congregational Hymn ~ *This Is a Time to Remember*

Choral Reading

1 I am the Old.

2 I am the New.

1 I have learned from what is past.

2 I lean into what is yet to come.

1 Yet we are both today,

2 and together.

1 Always old,

2 and ever new.

3 *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:*

everything old has passed away;

see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,

and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,

not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

(2 Corinthians 5:17–19)

1 I celebrate our creation.

2 I celebrate our re-creation.

1 The first . . .

2 . . . the last.

1 I celebrate what God has given us,

2 I celebrate that God forgives us.

1 We celebrate what God has done in Christ,

2 and that we are his ambassadors,

1 today,

2 together.

1 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment,

but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning;

the old commandment is the word that you have heard.

2 Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him

and in you, because the darkness is
passing away
and the true light is already shining.

(1 John 2:7-8)

1 You were taught to put away your former
way of life,
your old self, corrupt and deluded by its
lusts,

2 and to be renewed in the spirit of your
minds,
and to clothe yourselves with the new
self,

1 created according to the likeness of God
2 in true righteousness and holiness.

(Ephesians 4:22-24)

1 Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths, where the
good way lies;

2 and walk in it. (Jeremiah 6:16)

1 Do not be conformed to this world,

2 but be transformed by the renewing of
your minds,

1 so that you may discern what is the will of
God—

2 what is good and acceptable and
perfect. (Romans 12:2)

1 Therefore every [teacher]
who has been trained for the kingdom
of heaven

2 is like the master of a household
who brings out of his treasure what
is new

1 and what is old. (Matthew 13:52)

3 So, my friends, since we have confidence to
enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by
the new and living way that he opened for
us through the curtain (that is, through his
flesh), and since we have a great priest over
the house of God, let us approach with a
true heart in full assurance of faith, with
our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil
conscience and our bodies washed with pure
water.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope
without wavering, for he who has promised is
faithful. And let us consider how to provoke
one another to love and good deeds, not
neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of
some, but encouraging one another, and all the
more as you see the Day approaching.

(Hebrews 10:19-25)

1 Always old,

2 and ever new.

Hymn of Dedication ~ *God of the Ages*

Benediction

2 Restore us to yourself, O LORD,

1 that we may be restored;

2 renew our days

1 as of old. (Lamentations 5:21)

Notes

¹ Scripture quotations are from the New Re-
vised Standard Version (NRSV).

LEE MAGNESS teaches New Testament at
Milligan College, Milligan College, Tennessee.