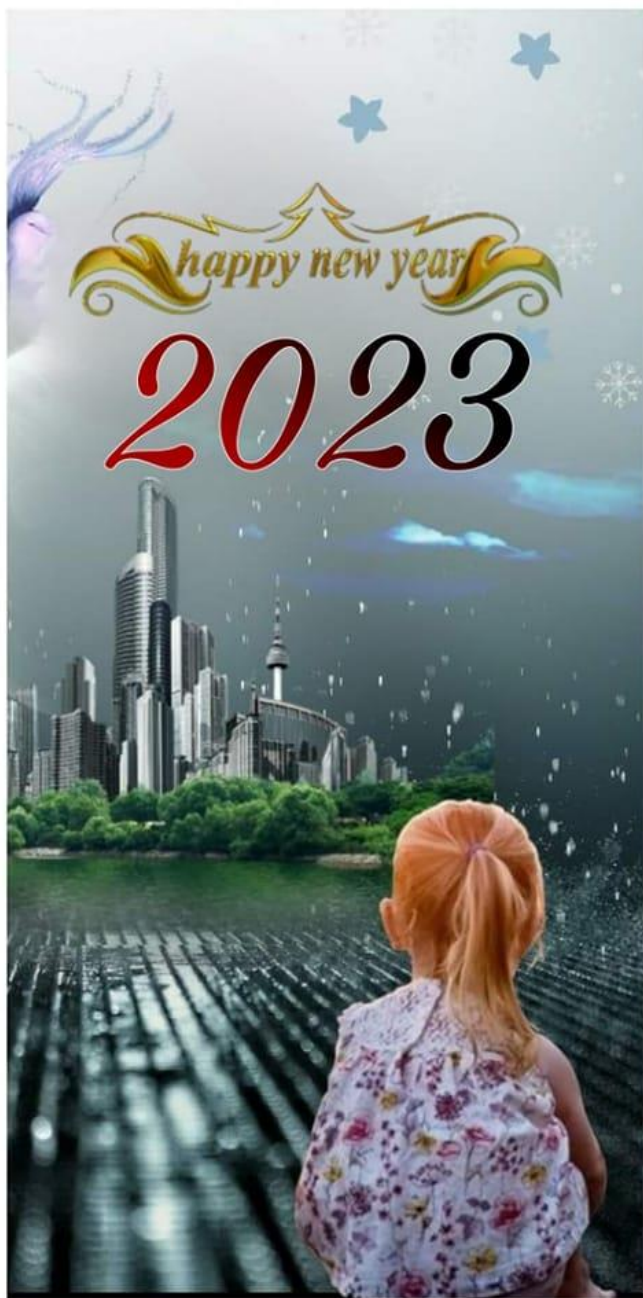


Thoughts and Smiles... Sunday, January 1, 2023



This is the last year I let the world decide
This is the last year I let my feelings hide
This is the last year that life dictates for me
This is the last year I struggle being me
For this is the new year
That dreams will start to grow
This is the new year I see the seeds I've sown
This is the new year, no longer hid by doubt.
This is the new year and all will now work out.
This will be the best year
The fruition of all plans.
This will be the best year, full of hopeful chance.
This will be the best year for loving all I do.
This will be the best year, when all my dreams
come true.

Heather Lea

ENDING TO BEGIN

The end of yet another year, of laughter, pain and joy;
Another year where dreams were dreamt but still yet to enjoy.
Another year of memories, filled both with love and hurt;
Another year that's leading me to what I'm truly worth.

But what my worth is truly, is truly up to me;
My worth depends on me and how clearly I can see,
And what this year has given me is the priceless gift of knowing,
That our path is never over - our path will keep on growing.

So though we count these years on earth and celebrate each one,
That is only part of of life, there's so much more to come,
So I hold each year with knowing - never with regret,
For I know this love is endless and this journey's not to fret.

Each of us are begging for a place to live forever,
Keeping all our needs and wants closely webbed together,
Holding onto hurtful times - lost in days of woe,
Wanting to move forward, but fearing where to go.

Yet all of us, as one we live, circling through time;
Sharing lives and stories, on many different lines
So when the midnight bell strikes down another year of life,
Don't take regrets of time that cut inside as knives.

A never ending flow of loving energy
With endless celebrations; endless chances to feel free.
A never ending gift of love that never leaves this plane.
No goodbyes - just bon voyage - until we meet again.

So when you take your cup of kind for all of auld lang syne,
Know that all the old friends are from all of space and time;
Some lives lived, some yet to come - full of laughter, joys and tears -
But all will celebrate with you, the end of each timed year.

- Heather Lea

Isaiah 65: The Glorious New Creation

*¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.*

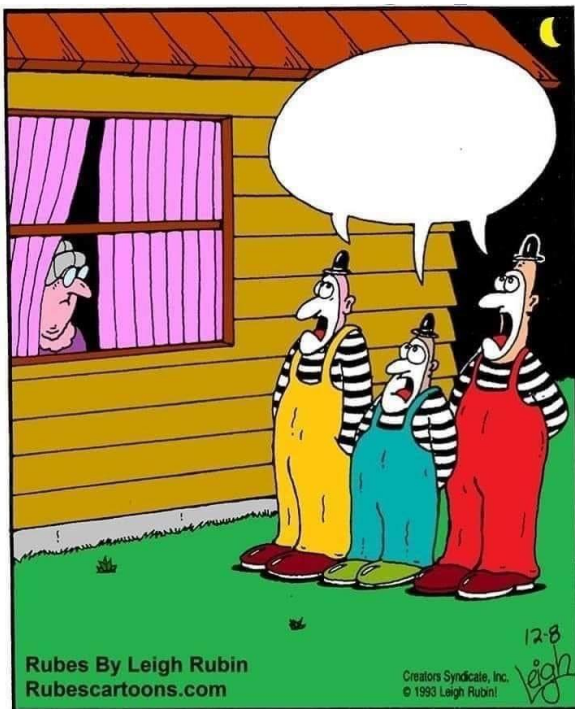
*¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.*

***And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through,
how you managed to survive.
You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over.
But one thing is certain.
When you come out of the storm,
you won't be the same person who walked in.
That's what this storm's all about.***

~Haruki Murakami

(Book: *Kafka on the Shore* <https://amzn.to/3VmttUt>)





The mime Christmas carolers performed a heartfelt rendition of "Silent Night."



Have a terrific week!

Blessings to you all!

David Jones
Minister of Outreach and Pastoral Care
Hepworth-Sauble Beach Pastoral Charge
226-568-3476 ipcress.jones@gmail.com

Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website.

<https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>

When people hurt you over and over, think of them as sandpaper. They may scratch and hurt a bit, but in the end, you end up polished and they end up useless.

And last... I hope you get a kick out of this:

Christmas According to Kids - Southland Christian Church

What happens when you ask a bunch of kids to tell the story of Christmas? Enjoy this story of Bethle-ha-ha-ham and the magical star that appeared.



<https://youtu.be/suowe2czxcA>