

## Tearing up the Year

2020 let's forget,  
Hopes and plans by ills beset;  
Covid unleashed its horrid spread,  
Filled our lives with panic and dread.

Forced to spend our time at home,  
Grappling with barren hours alone;  
Routines and norms strangled, hemmed,  
Wondering when it all might end.

Masks and visors worn to protect,  
Washing of hands to disinfect;  
Learning to keep 2 metres apart,  
Feeling detached, distanced at heart.

Isolation takes its toll,  
Gnawing sense of less than whole;  
How we long our friends to see,  
Face to face in company.

Zoom provides an online link,  
Buoying those who might well sink;  
Just a way to stay in touch,  
Though it leaves us wishing much.

Where is God in this pandemic?  
Groaning planet, burdened, sick.<sup>1</sup>  
What do we hear from the word divine?  
How do we change, move on, refine?

Havoc wreaked of endless scope,  
Vaccines bring a ray of hope.  
What if life could be rebooted?  
Voices, dreams of all unmuted?

Unity to save the world,  
Wisdom reconceived unfurled;  
Prospects new to cherish Earth,  
Light of dawn in second birth.

He Whose power no limit knows<sup>2</sup>  
Understands our pains and blows;<sup>3</sup>  
Nothing is too hard to alter,<sup>4</sup>  
Trusting Him though oft we falter.<sup>5</sup>

Lord, be merciful unto all,  
May Your ways our hearts enthrall;  
Shine on us the light of Your face,  
Your saving health reach every place.<sup>6</sup>

One day all will be made well,  
We shall see Him, with Him dwell;<sup>7</sup>  
Joyful steps, anticipation,  
Heaven's chime of restoration!

1. Romans 8.18-22

2. Ephesians 1.19-20

3. 2 Corinthians 1.3-4; 1 Peter 5.7

4. Matthew 19.26

5. Psalm 37.24

6. Psalm 67.1-2

7. Revelation 21.1-5

*January 2021, inspired by tearing up last year's diary!*

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