

Creator God, God of love and compassion, Lord of all new beginnings, You

beckon us to another year of service for the community.

But in our world we are sadly aware of

communities who are not at peace with each other;

areas in the world where hatred, war and poverty destroys community living;

places suffering from the devastation and upheaval of natural disasters;

peoples whose anxious lives are in turmoil and uncertainty.

We also recognize within our own community that there are people and places

who are not at peace with each other

who live in poverty and fear;

there are people in our own community here, whose lives are lived anxiously

and in turmoil

and who need encouragement and a friendly hand.

As we commit ourselves to another year of working for all peoples of this

community, may our community be a place of renewal and refreshment for all

those tired in spirit, a place of hope for those who are sad and lonely, and a place

of shelter for those who are hurt and broken. May our community be a space of

acceptance, belonging and encouragement and may our city be a haven where

people can find nurture and joy.

God, Creative Spirit, bless this community and give it Life, that together, we may

all live in peace, harmony and understanding. Grant us wisdom and strength in

all our decision making, give us the energy of Your Spirit when times are hard,

and may we become simpler, quieter, and warmer, drawn to You and Your love.

Amen.

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