



January 30, 2023

## “Ring Out, Wild Bells”

In 1850, over 170 years ago, Alfred, Lord Tennyson published a poem in memory of a dear friend. It could have been written yesterday. That’s why it is still my favorite New Years prayer. Here are some of the verses:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new.  
Ring happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,

The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

May this be our prayer in this new year of opportunity and hope, a year in which faith really matters. I'd like to think of myself and each of you as a "wild bell" in 2023.

~Written by Rev. Ned Edwards



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