

A CHORAL READING IN THREE PARTS

“Behold, I Make All Things New”

- 1 BEHOLD, I make all things new.
2 This is a day when we celebrate the new in a changing world.
3 And you think that’s good news? What’s wrong with the old?
- 2 I remember the CoB Annual Conferences at Ocean Grove, New Jersey, when Brethren arrived with a 10-dollar bill and the 10 commandments...and didn’t break either one of them.
- 3 I remember when we were the BYPD.
1 BYPD???? Beautiful Young Precocious Dunkers?
3 No! We were the Brethren Young People’s Department.
- 2 I remember when women did NOT wear earrings to church.
And I remember the days when only the women wore earrings.
- 1 What happened to those Saturday drives into town –to the filling station and 5 ‘n Dime, the moving picture show and soda shop?
- 3 What happened to the days when hula-hoops and Slinkys provided festive fun?
- 2 What happened to the days when people understood me when I asked where the nearest telephone booth could be located?
- 1 Or when I called something ducky or the cat’s pajamas
3 Or said: fifty two skidoo!
- 2 When was the last time you heard these heart-warming phrases?
3 Ain’t got much gumption
1 Well, I’ll be a Monkey’s uncle!
3 You aint’ just whistlin’ Dixie.
2 Well, I declare!

- 1 Isn't it more expressive to say,
2 *Don't get your bloomers in an uproar*
1 Rather than "calm down"?
3 *Or he's just a bump on the log.*
1 Instead of "He's lazy"?
2 *Or God willing and the creek don't rise.*
1 Instead of "if it all goes well"?
- 3 Do you remember ice boxes and washboards, and rumble seats?
2 How about crinolines?
3 and outhouses?
- 1 Clearly, some things *are* meant to stay in the historical archives!
- 2 But who wants to live in a culture where classic fairytales are condensed to
60-second sound bites?
3 And cell phones become a utensil at dinnertime.
1 And the internet highway carries hundreds of billions of messages every
day.
- 3 Land o' Goshen!
- 1 Imagine a world where we could breathe the air.
2 Where we could turn *off* the television
1 Or even turn *on* the television with the right clicker.
- 2 Violence, oppression, exploitation, and "globulation."
3 Reality TV, alienation and lack of forbearance.
- 1 Who wants this media-drenched, data rich, channel surfing, computer-
gaming, high band width, multi-tasking virtual age?
- 3 And yet...
2 Listen!
1 Listen!

3 Behold, I make all things new. (Rev. 21:5)

1 This is a new day. We will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

2 Sing unto the Lord a new song. (Psalm 96: 1)

3 I will put a new spirit within you. (Ez. 11:19)

1 If anyone be in Christ, they are a new creation (II Cor 5:17)

2 God led the people of Israel – not by the familiar way but by the
roundabout way of the wilderness..... (Ex. 13: 18)

1 Isn't God always calling us to be made new?

2 "To unlearn the follies of a lifetime

3 To see through inbred self-deceptions

1 To deepen understanding , compassion," and conviction.

All: What does it mean to think anew?

1 To remember that our salvation is not defined by Botox or plastic surgery
or what we own...

2 Have you ever seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul?

3 To know that we are not burdened by years but gifted *with* years.

3 To know that we can listen –

1 even though we wear hearing aids –

3 See with God's eyes –

1 even with bifocals –

3 and walk the talk –

1 even though we sometimes walk slowly.

2 Martin Buber wrote, "To be old is a glorious thing when one has not
unlearned what it means to begin."

3 Emily Dickinson wrote, "We turn not older with years but newer every
day."

2 Behold, I make all things new.

3 Behold, I make all things new.

1 Behold, I make all things new.



- 2 Here I am, God.
- 3 Here I am, God.
- 1 Here I am, God.

All: Make us new!

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Originally presented during
2011 National Older Adult Conference
Worship September 7, 2011