

*Faith, Hope
and Fiction*

Benediction for a New Year

By Neal Whitman

Yesterday is Today's farewell
Today is Tomorrow's magic spell
Tomorrow will not be, I say
unless Yesterday becomes Today.

This New Year

this I swear

a rift will be made right

by the end of the night.

You know of Seven Wonders.

This is the Eighth:

Forgive others their blunders

Act with grace

and they will return the favor.

Neal Whitman is a retired teacher who found new life as a poet. He lives in Pacific Grove, CA. Neal's poetry has been published in a more than fifty journals. Neal's writes both "regular" and haiku poetry; in 2009 he won the James McIntyre Poetry Contest in Ontario, Canada, and two honorable mentions in the Yuki Teikei Haiku Contest judged by haiku masters in Japan. His poem here was adapted from the Benediction for a

Unitarian Universalist Sunday service, which the author, who is a lay member, had volunteered to deliver as part of his sermon that day.