Today the year passes into the next cycle of unfolding life. Standing on the brink of the end of another year we hold the tension between what is and what might be. Throughout the journey of another year, we have watched and felt and groaned inwardly as:

- national conflicts played out before our eyes;
- environmental disasters wreaked havoc in unsuspecting lives;
- displaced peoples sought refuge in countries other than their own;
- the ravages of drought and famine affected thousands around us;
- the Ebola outbreak stole the lives of countless people from weeping loved ones' arms;
- the earth cried out in pain for violence committed thoughtlessly upon it;
- unemployment and underemployment ate into the dignity of ordinary people;
- world terror became a household word a common feeling for many;
- violence and a culture of fear grew without our knowing or agreement;
- domestic violence and sexual abuse became more known as present realities;
- human trafficking loomed larger in our awareness as the voices of opposition grew;
- displacement of peoples was debated, discussed and few remedies were found;
- children were held in detention centres along with parents seeking refuge and safe haven.

This and so much more has been part of the dark journey of the year just passing.

But there has been light as well - so much light to balance the darkness of our world’s soul. There have been so many often nameless people who have:

- stepped out to lend a hand;
- marched or walked in demonstrations for a humanitarian cause;
- raised their voices, written letters or acted to show they care;
- laid wreaths for the dead;
- burned candles in memory of the violated;

spoken up for truth and goodness;
- fought for their country in huge generosity of heart;
- stood up to violence confronting them or defended someone else at risk;
- used their profile as public figure to cheer a child or encourage another who was lost or down;

There have been countless, nameless people who:
- risked their lives for others in floods and bushfires and critical incidents of every kind;
- There have been:
  - volunteer people who gave their time to share a word or help a stranger or help carry a load too large;
  - philanthropic people who gave from their plenty that others might have what they lacked;
  - praying people who prayed and trusted and hoped that dark shadows would dim.

We in the Contemplative Evolution Network, in the course of this year have done what was ours to do quietly helping to turn darkness into light. We have longed and dreamed and prayed more earnestly.

We have forged bonds with faceless people across a cyber network as we sat silently at the Source, holding the tension of the world in the peaceful centre of our hearts.

We have allowed that peace to deepen further taking us into the powerful Centre of all that is... Love.

**As 2016 opens before us,**
we entrust our world, still in process, to the larger Power working at its centre.

Let us, along with others, be IN the silent beating heart that holds all light and darkness gently, in quiet balance.