

Our City Renewed

*For Alexandria's City Council installation and mayoral inauguration,
January 2, 2025*

There is a newness—
like the first wondrous snowflake of the season
falling on a tongue, an acorn
holding promise in a single seed.

Remember that something always opens
after leaves have fallen
and mud covers the earth.
We wait for what we planted.

Now the people gather
to speak, to listen, to hope.
They declare: We believe in change,
we believe in our vision for this city.

The river wants to carry them,
to lift up their dreams and say:
There is reason to remember
that all waves eventually come to shore.

And they do: the waves, the stories
about injustice, the work toward equality,
the ways to convey *togetherness*
in all the languages the city speaks.

The leaders open their hearts
to receive blessings from the people.
They repeat: We hear you. We affirm that
we are all responsible for each other.

A wise woman in their midst opens
a long-closed door with the confidence
only her hard work, and this caring community,
could give her. She is grateful, determined.

Above, the waxing crescent moon
illuminates history and possibilities,
rises to imbue the city with courage
to work for a just world, toward light.

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City of Alexandria Poet Laureate