

by Keith Barnes, Patric Dickinson, Thelma Frost
Martin Green and
James Kirkup

New Verse

TIME AND TIDE 24 DECEMBER 1960

New Year Song

What will the new year bring?
People used to hope for a new beginning.
Now we hope only in the negative,
which is, perhaps, quite easy to forgive.

We hope for no further horrors,
for no race riots, for no new Suez,
for no fresh involvement,
for no nuclear accident.

We hope, today, by courtesy
of fear.

Look at these little children
playing by the Christmas tree.
Feel how they lighten us with their lantern
faces.

Do they have to have our legacy?

People used to hope for a new beginning.
When will we learn to hope again?
When will we stir our sleeping tenderness?
When will we stretch awake and know we
trust;
become, for the first time, men?

KEITH BARNES

24 DEC 60

2
T+T