



## POEM

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*Alice Carleton*

**Inauguration Day  
January 20, 2009**

### **Prayer of Hope**

Hope is a fragile thing  
Which flies on delicate wing

It is the flutter of a beating heart  
For renewal  
Of which we are all a part

We join our hands and hearts  
The newness of that start

We sing in joy as one  
The work which must be done

“O beautiful for spacious skies”  
For hope which onward and upward flies

In coldest Winter  
The hope of Spring is always sure  
Our nation shall forever endure

After the rain . . . the rainbow  
The promise of what we know

Together we pray and sing  
Together we let freedom ring

We say to fear  
You have no business here

Our message to the world  
The freedom banner gloriously unfurled

Stitched in lightening and fiercest fire  
To this our nation does aspire

Throw a ticker-tape parade  
For history has been made

Yes (President Obama) . . . you can  
Yes we can