



RBC Wealth Management

Spence Partners

805 SW Broadway, Suite 1800

Portland, OR 97205

Phone: 503-833-5228

Toll-Free: 800-547-4006

Fax: 503-227-0434

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*“Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne.”*

— Scottish poet, Robert Burns, 1788

Dear Friends,

Yet another holiday lost to Covid... New Year's Eve. Lost may be a celebration with friends and family, a bit of bubbly and, of course, a chorus of Auld Lang Syne. Despite the fact that Ancestry.com tells your writer that his ancestors are 66% Northern Ireland, 33% Scotland and 1% mutt, I too am guilty of not actually knowing the words in English, let alone Gaelic. We will spare you the Gaelic, but herewith follows an English translation along with some wonderful sentiments about cups of kindness, pulling daisies fine, paddling in the stream and a deep draught of good-will: a timely message.

*Should old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And long, long ago.*

*And for long, long ago, my dear
For long, long ago,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For long, long ago.*

*And surely you will buy your pint-jug
And surely I'll buy mine!
And we'll take a cup of kindness yet
For long, long ago.*

*We two have run about the hills
And pulled the daisies fine.
But we've wandered manys the weary foot
Since long, long ago.*

*We two have paddled in the stream
From morning sun till dine.
But seas between us broad have roared
Since long, long ago.*

*And here's a hand, my trusty friend
And give us a hand of yours!
And we'll take a deep draught of good-will
For long, long ago.*

For old lang syne.

On behalf of all of us here at Spence Partners, accept our best wishes for a safe and relaxing New Year's celebration and for a much improved, vaccine filled start for the year ahead. Please take care of yourselves and each other!

Best regards,

Steven N. Spence
Senior Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
Financial Advisor

Marcia Hull
Senior Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
Financial Advisor

Christopher Klavins
Senior Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
Financial Advisor

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