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# New Day

h. j. Recinos

on this long-awaited  
day we greeted the  
sun eager to tell it  
the different story  
we carried like an  
overburdening cross  
the length of these four  
years. we woke today  
full of prayer, breathing  
hope, weeping for the  
the missing and catching  
the fierce shouts of history  
remade though dark hate  
still looms in the air until  
together we bring it to its  
knees to beg forgiveness.  
today, after a threatening  
storm, we watched the  
celebration, the stories  
great women bring to  
keep the nation whole,

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the dreams that loathed  
human beings made when  
conquered, dispossessed,  
put in chains, beaten, lynched  
and at last so free. today,  
hatred could not find a place  
in the heart of the nation's  
second Catholic president,  
Dixiecrat politicians were out  
of lies, and blue eyes were  
removed from the flag to  
have it wave the colors that  
sweep across mountains, are  
in every valley, and stretch  
from sea to sea. today, we  
took the first step toward  
truth and removed masks  
of grief to begin the long  
walk to heal a broken nation,  
hold the wicked accountable,  
and claim the dream that keeps  
us struggling to make a more  
perfect union, again.