

A Month of Sundays December 2024



Preston Ribble Circuit

Sunday 1st December 2024

Call to worship

As we begin our Advent journey,
we come together in hope,
to worship the one who brings hope to the whole world.
We come together to worship the Lord.

Bible reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

During Advent many of us decorate homes with greenery as hopeful signs that winter will soon give way to spring. Jeremiah speaks into the bleak experience of his people in the sixth century BC. Jerusalem and its Temple have been destroyed by powerful Babylonian armies, its ancestral lands annexed, its leaders removed and most of its people exiled to Babylon.

What saves his hopeful message from being merely wishful thinking is God's faithfulness to his covenant

promise (v.14), which will be fulfilled in a new king from the house of David. The coming king will rule with characteristic 'justice' and 'righteousness' (Psalm 72), and so will 'surely' bring salvation to Jerusalem and Judea. A branch grows naturally as a hopeful beginning. But Israel's hope comes in God's trustworthy promise. Some of the prophets' hopes were fulfilled in their day, others weren't. Christians have re-shaped them in the light of the new beginnings brought by Jesus, but without removing their longings for a better world.

Hymn Singing the Faith number 455

- 1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

- 2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

- 3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;

splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844–1930) (*alt.*)

based on Joachim Neander (1650–1680)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 455

Reflection

Thought for the week

There is a park in Plymouth with a rather unusual tree in it. Growing out of the ground is the stump of an old tree – it's at least a metre wide. Many years ago, the tree was cut down and only the stump was left. But somehow, a new fir tree started to grow from it. So now, each year at Christmas nearby residents decorate the tree and have a little celebration together around it. This particular tree that was cut down has become a quite unexpected source of hope as a new one has sprung up from it.

In Jeremiah, we hear of God causing 'a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety'. The 'righteous Branch' that is to come is Jesus.

As we start Advent, we look back and look forward. We look back and remember all those who waited in hopeful anticipation for the Messiah who would come and save them. Many, like Jeremiah, never lived to see the Messiah. And yet they remained hopeful.

We look back and remember Jesus' birth over two thousand years ago and how a tiny baby was born in less than ideal circumstances, whose parents then fled with him to Egypt to escape a terrible fate. Yet, among all this, the hope spoken of by Jeremiah became a reality.

But we also look forward. We look forward in hope to when Jesus will come again and all things will be restored and renewed, when all crying and pain will cease, when all people will come together to worship the Lord.

What does that mean in the place and time we find ourselves, between the past and future. Here we also find hope.

Just like the fir tree that grew from the stump of the old, dead tree, there are signs of hope all around us – in the ways that we see God at work in our own lives, in the lives of people we know, and in the lives of people we have never met. These might be big or small. What signs of hope have you seen recently?

Say the Lord's Prayer

Prayers

Lord, thank you for the signs of hope we see in the world today.

Thank you that, even when things seem hopeless, with you there is always hope.

Help us to be people who look for hope and share it with others.

Amen.

Let us go out in hope to share God's hope with others, that we might bring light into the dark corners of the world.

Amen.

Sunday 8th December 2024

Call to worship

We come together in hope and love.

With prophets, old and new, we celebrate the love of God.

In his tender mercy, God calls us to be part of the great plan of salvation.

Bible reading: Malachi 3:1-4

The Coming Messenger

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reflection: Thoughtful preparing?

Have you ever been roped into helping a child with a particularly challenging school project? Someone was asked to help their grandson with making a model for a school art project. The grandson expected that his grandparent would react immediately and miraculously produce materials and the help needed. The grandparent had two options: a) try to find something in the house that could be used to make the model immediately; or b) to think carefully and come up with a plan to buy some materials or spend time collecting paper and making a papier maché model.

After a hunt round the house turned up only a small amount of modelling clay, plan B was decided on and materials duly purchased for it. The papier maché took a while to prepare and was very messy, but the wait was worth it. Grandparent and grandchild had great fun making the modelling material and the whole family joined in and made their own models.

Though the grandchild had to wait longer, the end result was much more imaginative and creative – it was the result of a loving plan!

God has a plan for raising us up, saving and loving us. Sometimes the plan requires patience on our part. We may need to change some of our expectations or preconceived notions. Maybe we could use a different modelling material!

Our readings emphasise that God's plan was and is one of love. It is carefully planned, with messengers and

others preparing the way. And the outcome was God sending his son in love for the world.

The final part of Zechariah's song sums the situation up rather nicely:

'For you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

That's surely a loving plan worth waiting for!

Hymn Stf 178

- 1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon:
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?
- 2 God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human:
- 3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.

In her womb, God is laid;
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected:
4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

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A prayer of confession

Dear God, when we mess up your plan
when we go the wrong way,
when we are so full of ourselves
we miss what you say: please forgive us.

When we lose trust in your word,
and we think you're not there;
when we lose all our hope
and believe you don't care: please forgive us.
Forgive us we pray and speak to our heart,
so we can leave guilt behind and make a new start.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Dear God, when we mess up your plan
when we go the wrong way,
when we are so full of ourselves
we miss what you say: please forgive us.

When we lose trust in your word,
and we think you're not there;
when we lose all our hope
and believe you don't care: please forgive us.
Forgive us we pray and speak to our heart,
so we can leave guilt behind and make a new start.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Say the Lord's Prayer

A sending out prayer

Lord, may we go out in hope and love.
Through our actions and words,
help us to your loving plan of salvation with those we
meet.

Amen.

Sunday 15th December 2024

A call to worship

We come together in hope, love and joy.
We join in joyful songs and prepare with joy to welcome Jesus.

Hymn Stf 346

- 1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
glory to God on high.
- 2 Christ is the world's Peace, Christ and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another;
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.
- 3 Christ is the world's Life, Christ and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother —
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
glory to God on high.
- 4 Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;
give God the glory, God with us, my brother:
glory to God on high.

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A prayer of adoration

God of life,
in a world prone to despair,
we thank you for the joy of hope.
In a world wracked by uncertainty,
we thank you for the joy of your promises.
In a world tempted by greed,
we thank you for the joy of your goodness.
In a world of so much loneliness,
we thank you for the joy of your presence.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we thank you. **Amen.**

Say the Lord's Prayer

Bible reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reflection

Imagine a scene from an EastEnders filming session (or another soap of your choice). A person is sitting at a kitchen table, writing a shopping list. The second character brings them a coffee but manages to spill some on the list. This being a soap, the situation escalates

quickly: the first person is annoyed that their shopping list is ruined but the second character blames them for having an overly cluttered table, and tells them they should make their own coffee in the future!

Now imagine a retake of this scene – coffee still gets spilled on the shopping list, but this time the second person apologises, gets a cloth to wipe up the mess and makes another cup of coffee. Both characters laugh off the incident and harmony is restored.

Repentance i.e. being sorry and changing accordingly, isn't necessarily associated with joy. But saying sorry, meaning it and showing it by our actions, can bring healing and joy to all sides. Looked at from the angle of the wronged person, it is much easier to forgive someone who has admitted they are in the wrong. And forgiveness can bring healing.

At first sight, the message of John the Baptist sounds harsh and joyless, but true change and repentance bring joy. This message comes across even more in the life and ministry of Jesus, the one for whom John was preparing. Think about people who Jesus met, such as Zacchaeus. Here was a man whose whole life was turned around. The change was real, as he prepared to give half his goods to the poor and reimburse the people he had cheated. What joy it brought to him – and no doubt to the people who received back what was due to them. Are there people you need to say sorry to? Why not do something about that this week?

A prayer of intercession

Christmas is here.

With joy and celebration we worship you
and bring our prayers for others.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those, who like Mary and Joseph, seek shelter in a
strange land, a strange place.

For those far from family and friends.

For those needing shelter, companionship, warmth,
friendship and food.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those who are journeying, searching for somewhere
to put down roots, someone to put down roots with,
something which will root them in their being.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those who have received no gifts, no parcels wrapped
with love and care, no surprises or treasures beneath the
Christmas tree. For those who have had no cards of
greetings and remembrance. For those who will have
spoken to no one and seen no one over this Christmas
weekend.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those who are too ill, too frail, too near to death to lift
their eyes in praise and celebration. For those who work

from choice or need over Christmas, who do so much for others, to meet their needs and show them care.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those who have been joy givers to us; who have been hope givers to us; who have shown us care and compassion; who have blessed us with words of peace and offered us unconditional love.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those for whom Christmas has no meaning beyond eating, drinking and being merry. For those who do not know the story of the nativity and who find no meaning in the Christian way of life.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For all these and all those whose names and needs are treasured in our hearts we offer our heartfelt prayers this Christmas time.

Amen

A sending out prayer

Lord, may we go forward in hope, love and joy.
May our lives bring joy to you and to those around us.
Help us to change when we need to
and give us joy in repenting.

Amen.

Sunday 22nd December 2024

Call to Worship

We come together in hope, love, joy and peace.
With Mary, we look for the peace that comes
from seeking and following your plan for us.

Bible reading: Luke 1:39-45, 46-55

Mary Visits Elizabeth

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his
servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Reflection: Portraying Peace

An art competition was once held on the theme of 'Peace'. Most artists used images of green fields with sheep grazing safely. There were streams and trees swaying gently in the breeze on a summer's day. However, the winning painting showed a bird in a nest, protecting its young, in a tree that was swaying in a howling gale. Were we to enter this competition, what images would we produce?

What about the image suggested by Graham Kendrick's song 'Thorns in the straw', which suggests that Mary may have seen, as she looks at her sleeping child, 'by his head a thorn'. 'And did she smell myrrh in the air on that starry night?', the song continues. The baby lying peacefully in the manger, the one whose birth we will celebrate in just a few days' time, the one who the angels said would bring

'peace on earth', was threatened right from the start. He brought peace, but at a cost.

Then there is the traditional symbol of peace, the dove. Surely this would suggest a placid creature, but you might see a slightly different picture if you were to see a collared dove, whose nest was being threatened by a magpie!

There is nothing 'static' or placid about Mary's song. It is a song about righting wrongs, a peace that will come through justice, and action to achieve it. We need to find peace at times of turmoil and to be peacemakers to bring a peaceful space for others. Are there wrongs that we can right to bring peace?

So what will our pictures of peace look like? And will they change our lives?

Hymn StF 205: It came upon the midnight clear

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold:
 'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
 from heaven's all-gracious King!'
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come,
 with peaceful wings unfurled;
 and still their heavenly music floats
 o'er all the weary world;
 above its sad and lowly plains
 they bend on hovering wing;

and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring.
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo, the days are hastening on,
to prophets shown of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when the new heaven and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and all the world repeat the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810–1876)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 205

Prayers of intercession

Christmas is here.

With joy and celebration we worship you
and bring our prayers for others.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those, who like Mary and Joseph, seek shelter in a strange land, a strange place.

For those far from family and friends.

For those needing shelter, companionship, warmth, friendship and food.

Emmanuel, God with us

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For those who are journeying, searching for somewhere to put down roots, someone to put down roots with, something which will root them in their being.

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For those who have received no gifts, no parcels wrapped with love and care, no surprises or treasures beneath the Christmas tree. For those who have had no cards of greetings and remembrance. For those who will have spoken to no one and seen no one over this Christmas weekend.

Emmanuel, God with us

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For those who have been joy givers to us; who have been hope givers to us; who have shown us care and compassion; who have blessed us with words of peace and offered us unconditional love.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For all these and all those whose names and needs are treasured in our hearts we offer our heartfelt prayers this Christmas time.

Say the Lord's Prayer

A sending out prayer

Lord, help us to go forward in hope, love, joy and peace. Give us your peace in our lives and in our world. **Amen.**

Wednesday 25th December

Call to Worship

Glorious God, we praise you for the gift of Christmas, for its holy magic and the gift of your Son.

Lord Jesus, we celebrate your birth and the healing wonder

that your life will bring to all creation.

Holy Spirit, you inspire the song of the angels and we praise you for the music of Christmas, which fills our hearts and echoes around the world.

Holy Trinity, we adore you this Christmas and rejoice at the gifts of new life, hope and beauty.

Amen.



Hymn

- 1 Let earth and heaven combine,
angels and all agree,
to praise in songs divine
the incarnate Deity,
our God contracted to a span,
incomprehensibly made man.
- 2 He laid his glory by,
he wrapped him in our clay;
unmarked by human eye,
the latent Godhead lay;
infant of days he here became,
and bore the mild Immanuel's name.
- 3 Unsearchable the love
that has the Saviour brought;
the grace is far above
both earth's and angels' thought:
suffice for us that God, we know,
our God, is manifest below.
- 4 He deigns in flesh to appear,
widest extremes to join;
to bring our vileness near,
and make us all divine:
and we the life of God shall know,
for God is manifest below.
- 5 Made perfect first in love,
and sanctified by grace,
we shall from earth remove,
and see his glorious face:
his love shall then be fully showed,
and we shall all be lost in God.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

A prayer of confession

Lord of Christmas,
forgive us when there is: no place for you at our table;
no room for you in our hearts; no space for you in our
lives.

Be born in us anew today.

Forgive us when there is: no place for the hungry at our
table;
no room for the needy in our hearts;
no space for the lonely in our homes;
no time for the vulnerable in our lives.

Be born in us anew today.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God,
although we don't always make a place for you,
you always make one for us.
You forgive us when we are sorry,
you restore us when we are broken
and you give us back our Christmas,
wrapped not in tinsel but in your love.
We thank you in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Christmas Day Message:

John 1: 1-5

The Gospel According to John

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Wonder of the Incarnation

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, we are reminded of the profound mystery and wonder of the Incarnation. This is the day when we remember that God, in His infinite love and humility, chose to become one of us. The Creator of the universe entered our world as a vulnerable baby, born in a humble manger.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer beautifully captures this wonder in his reflections. He writes, "And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken."

This message of the Incarnation is one of hope and transformation. It tells us that no matter how lowly or

broken we may feel, God is with us. He is not distant or indifferent but intimately involved in our lives. The birth of Jesus is a testament to God's incredible love and His desire to be close to us.

As we celebrate this Christmas, let us embrace the wonder of the Incarnation. Let us remember that in the birth of Jesus, we see the fullness of God's love and the promise of His presence with us always. May this truth fill our hearts with joy and peace, and may we share this love with those around us.

Merry Christmas!

Prayers of intercession

Christmas is here.

With joy and celebration we worship you
and bring our prayers for others.

Emmanuel, God with us

Be with all those for who(m) we pray.

For those, who like Mary and Joseph, seek shelter in a
strange land, a strange place.

For those far from family and friends.

For those needing shelter, companionship, warmth,
friendship and food.

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For those for whom Christmas has no meaning beyond eating, drinking and being merry. For those who do not

know the story of the nativity and who find no meaning in the Christian way of life.

Emmanuel, God with us

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For all these and all those whose names and needs are treasured in our hearts we offer our heartfelt prayers this Christmas time.

Amen

Sunday 29th December

Call to Worship

We gather here,
young and old,
wise and questioning,
fearful and joyful,
full of doubt and full of hope.
Let us put our trust in God,
Christ-child and heavenly king,
as we gather to worship,
to learn and grow as God's people.

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

The Child Samuel at Shiloh

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless

Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Luke 2:41-52

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Reflection:

In our readings today, we hear the story of two children showing their special skills from a young age. Samuel, although far from home and family, was already ministering at the shrine. And Jesus who, through his answers to the teachers at the synagogue, already showed an amazing understanding. These are stories of all ages learning and growing together, which can inspire us to do the same. We learn from Jesus that listening and asking questions are important ways to learn, something we can practise at any age. Children are naturally curious and often ask the questions we are afraid to ask.

Luke 2:51 tells us that Mary treasured these precious memories of Jesus in her heart. As we look back on the past year, which sparkling moments do we want to treasure and remember? It may be a person that inspired us, an event that uplifted us, or just an everyday act of kindness. As we continue to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, let's be especially mindful of children and young people who have touched our lives this year. Perhaps you can use a glitter bottle to remember those treasured moments and people this week and to give thanks for them.

Hymn StF 102

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
*Gracious God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

- 3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

- 4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

- 5 For each perfect gift and sign
of your love so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835–1917)

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A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Faithful God,
we thank you that: as your blessing was upon the child
Jesus,
so it is upon us.
As you prepared and equipped him for his ministry,
so you prepare and equip us.
As you guided him through his life,
so you will guide us.
As your love shone through him,
so it can shine through us,
this Christmas-tide, this new year and always. Amen.

Say the Lord's Prayer

A sending out prayer

Word of Wisdom,
as you have taught us,
may we share your Word with others.
Sparkling Light,
as you have shone on us,
may we shine your light to others.
Precious Love,
as you have grown in us,
may we show your love to others. Amen.