

Epiphany Sunday
January 3rd, 2021

1 Good Christians all, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Listen now to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today;

ox and ass before him bow,

and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today;

Christ is born today!

2 Good Christians all, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Hear the news of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this;

he has opened heaven's door

and we are blessed for evermore!

Christ was born for this;

Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christians all, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Now you need not fear the grave;

Jesus Christ was born to save:

come at his most gracious call

to find salvation, one and all!

Christ was born to save;

Christ was born to save!



Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on the lands that we now call Canada; their relationship with the land was, and remains today, at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abenaki and Mohawk first peoples.

May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.





A Prayer for Community

In this season of Epiphany, we give thanks for the light which shines forth in the world. May the Christ light call us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

And may our time of music, prayer and scripture kindle the light within us so that we may offer our gifts that will enlighten and encourage the world which God so loves.

Introductory Responses

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.

Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;
you shine with the Father's love
and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;
born a child, you shared our humanity.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed are you, Son of David;
born to rule,
you received gifts from the wise men.

Blessed are you, Son of Man;
baptized by John,
you saved us from ourselves.

Blessed are you, heavenly King;
teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed the kingdom.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the creatures on earth
we sing and dance at his birth.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise!





Prayer of Confession:

The prophet speaks of the coming light of God which calls all the people of the earth to come together in God's realm of shalom.

Let us confess the ways in which we have rejected God's vision of wholeness:

God of light and darkness, We have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved ourselves. Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.

Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives.
The light of God shines through the darkness. Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.



***Arise, shine;
for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD
has risen upon you.***

Isaiah 60:1

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. [Refrain]



Psalm 72

Refrain

Johann Crüger 1640

Hail to God's own a - noint - ed, who rules in e - qui - ty.

Part One (1-8)

Give the ruler your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal heir,
for judging your people rightly,
and upholding the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,
and the hills, prosperity with justice. R

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people,
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,
as long as the moon from age to age.

May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,
like showers that water the earth;
may your anointed be one in whose days justice shall flourish
and peace abound till the moon is no more. R

Part Two (10-14)

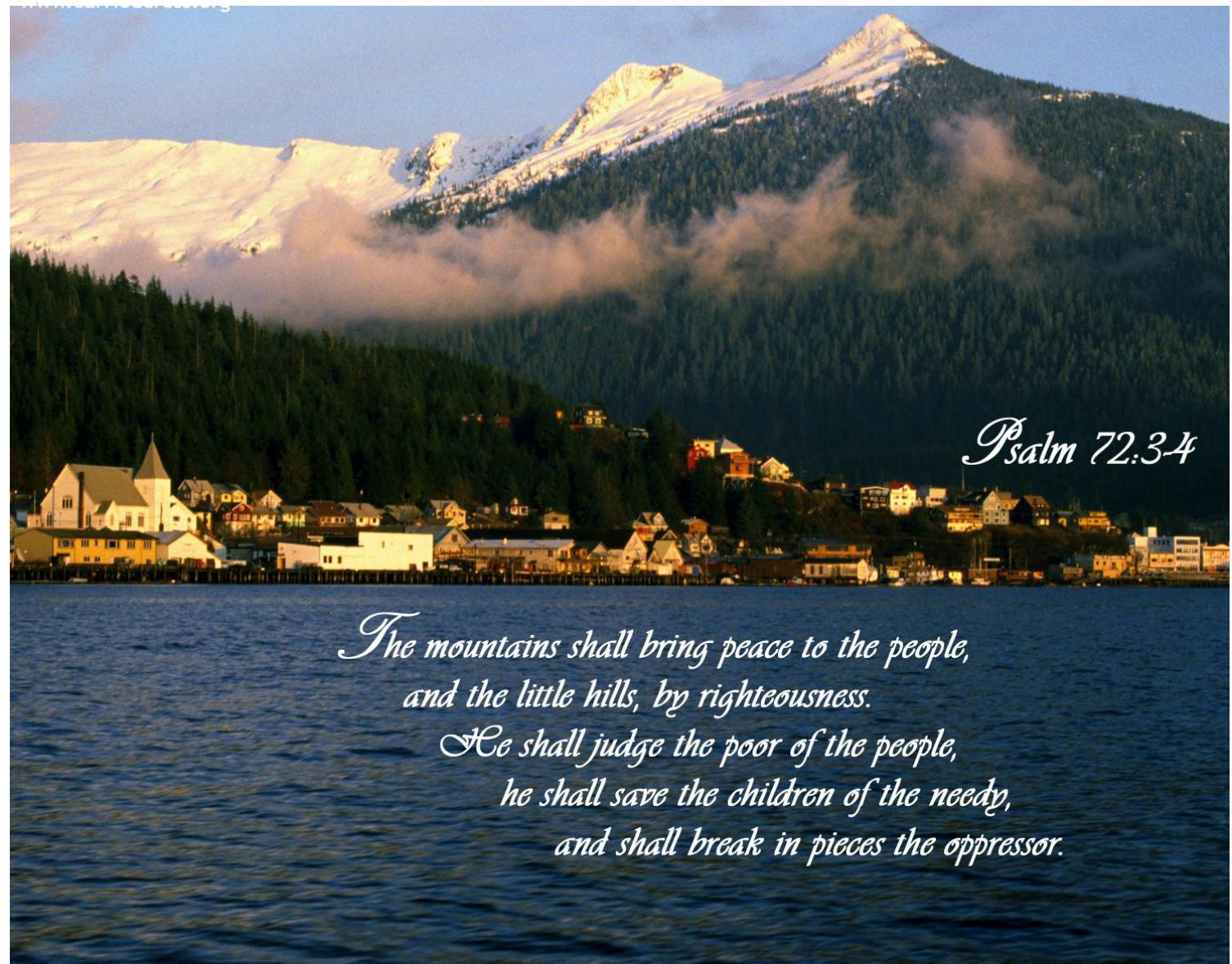
May the rulers of Tarshish and the isles pay tribute,
the monarchs of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

May all rulers do homage,
and all nations render service.

For your anointed shall deliver the needy when they cry,
the poor and those who have no helper.

Your anointed shall have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the poor.

From oppression and violence your anointed shall redeem their life,
and count as precious their blood. R



Ephesians 3:1-12 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.



1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
[Refrain]

5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
[Refrain]



Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



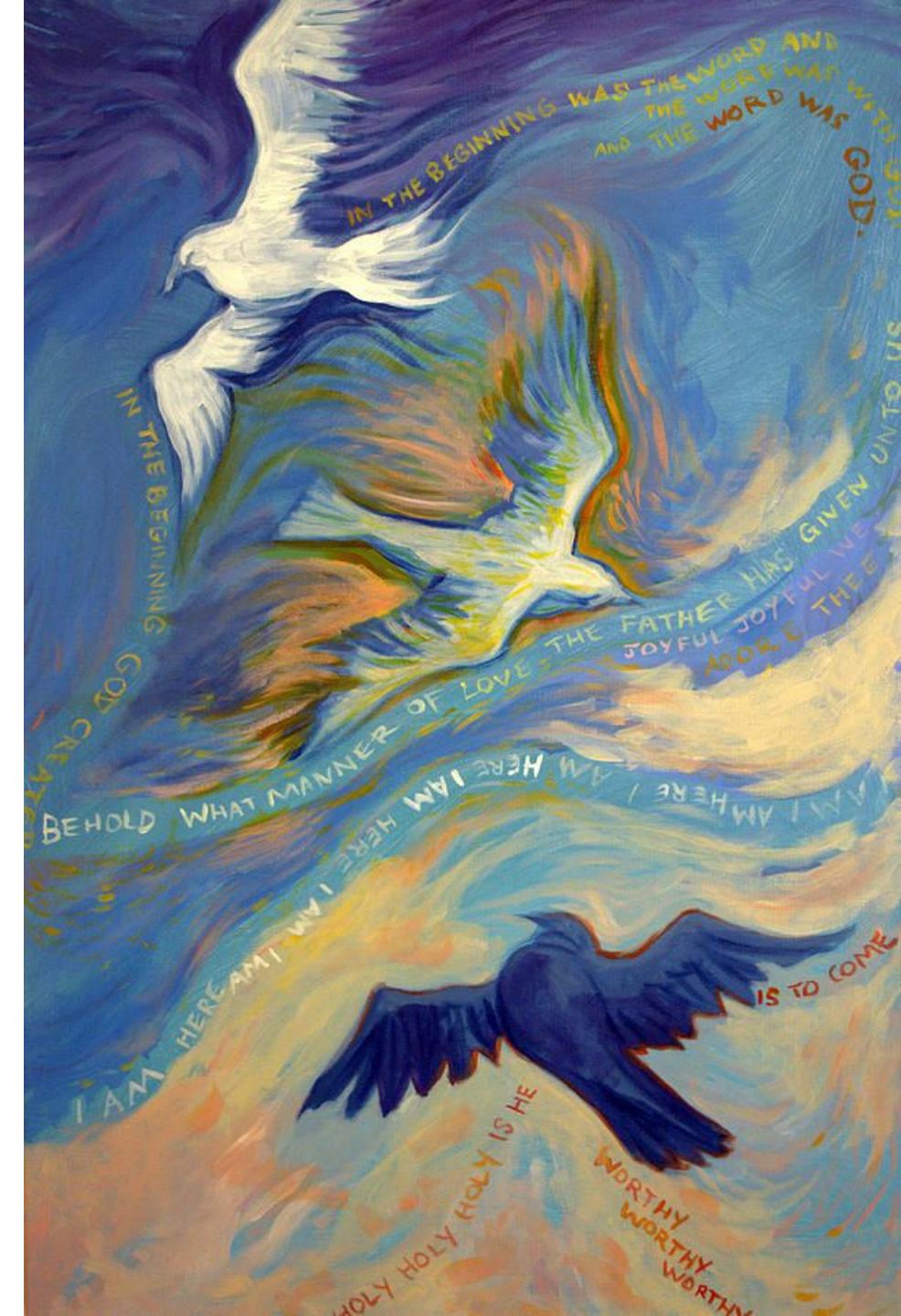


Sermon the by the Rev. Tyson L. Røsberg

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is
worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen



Prayers of the People
by Wendy and André

Star of Bethlehem Quilt
c. 1835 Metropolitan Museum
of Art New York City



Seigneur, tu m'offres cette nouvelle année
comme un vitrail à rassembler
avec les 365 morceaux de toutes les couleurs
qui représentent les jours de ma vie.

J'y mettrai le rouge de mon amour et de mon enthousiasme,
le mauve de mes peines et de mes deuils,
le vert de mes espoirs et le rosé de mes rêves,
le bleu ou le gris de mes engagements ou de mes luttes,
le jaune et l'or de mes moissons...

Je réserverai le blanc pour les jours ordinaires
et le noir pour ceux où tu seras absent.

Je cimenterai le tout par la prière de ma foi
et par ma confiance sereine en toi.

Seigneur, je te demande simplement d'illuminer, de l'intérieur,
ce vitrail de ma vie par la lumière de ta présence
et par le feu de ton Esprit de vie.

Ainsi, par transparence, ceux que je rencontrerai cette année,
y découvriront peut-être le visage de ton Fils bien-aimé
Jésus-Christ, Notre-Seigneur. »*Amen*

Gaston Lecler. Ordonné prêtre en 1952, Bruxelles, Belgique.

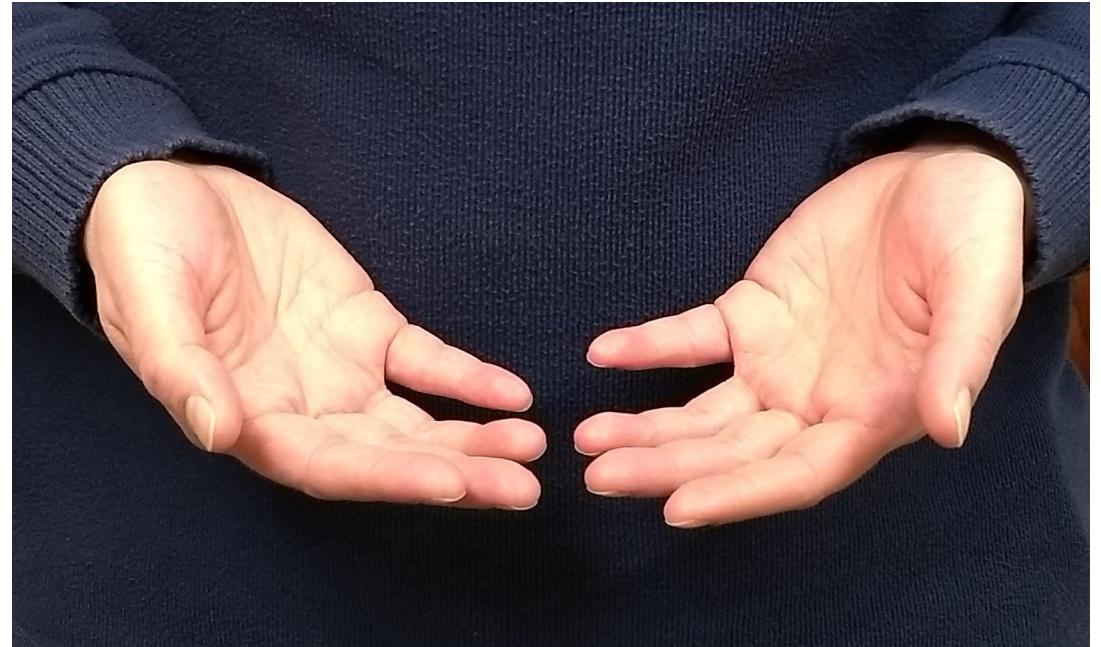


The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be
done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom, the power, and
the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que
ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton
règne vienne, que ta volonté soit
faite sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre
pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos
offenses, comme nous pardonnons
aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en
tentation mais délivre-nous du
mal. Car c'est à Toi
qu'appartiennent le règne, la
puissance et la gloire, pour les
siècles des siècles. Amen.

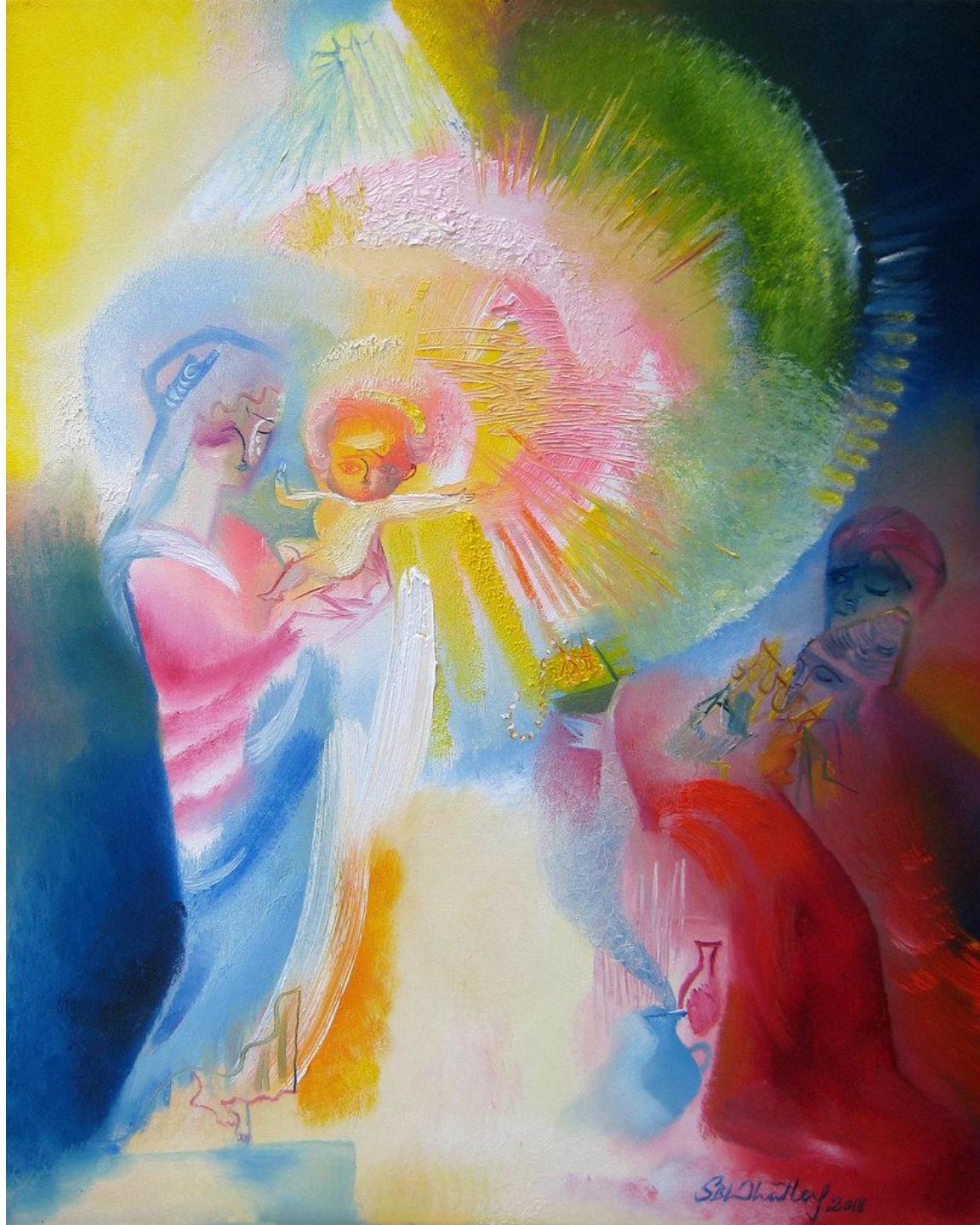


Closing Prayers

O God of light and peace,
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
still draws people to yourself:
dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,
that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship,
and offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he has taught us.
Amen.

Lord God Almighty, thank you that Jesus' epiphany as Son of God reaches across time and space.
As we go into this day may we embrace your call to come and see, come and follow, go and tell others.
May we remember that we are bearers of Christ's light sent out to touch others so that they may know him as Son of God and experience the hope his message brings.

**Go into the world knowing you are led by the light of Christ,
May the love of the Creator go before you,
May the life of the Redeemer be within you,
May the joy of the Spirit shine through you,
Amen.**



1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood salvation bought. [Refrain]



