

Christmas Eve

Midnight Meditation

Welcome to this short meditation as Christmas Eve turns to Christmas Day

We begin by listening to Still the Night

Starlight and song
have once again summoned us
home to the stable.

***And so, with the beasts of the field,
and the humble and the high,
we have come to gaze
on the face of God.***

The old familiar Christmas story has once again drawn us
to where God meets with us and us with God

***And here, through words worn smooth with telling,
may we once again see and know you,
Emmanuel – God with us and for us.***

Christmas Child, as we wait now for you, steal softly into our lives:

Still our clamorous busyness with the quiet of your coming.

Christmas Child, as we look now for you, steal softly into our minds:

Transfigure our dull thinking with the colours of your seeing.

Christmas Child, as we long now for you, steal softly into our hearts:

Enrich our meagre loving with the warmth of your being.

Christmas Child, as at Bethlehem's stable,

Steal softly in among us now and heal and hallow us with your Presence.

Confession

Christmas Child –
becoming flesh, you showed what it was to serve and share,
to live and love, as God intended.
As we stand at the stable door
we confess that all too often our serving and sharing
have concealed or mocked your generosity,
rather than making it present and plain.

Lord, have mercy

As we stand at the stable door
we confess that all too often
our living and loving
have displaced or distorted your image,
rather than making it present and plain.

Christ, have mercy

Christmas Child,
as we kneel again at your manger
restore, renew and reshape us
so that our serving and sharing,
living and loving
may, now and always,
incarnate you in the world.

Reading – John 1:1-14

A short reflection on light in the darkness

The Candle Song

Prayers with this response:

Christmas Child,
bring in your light and your love.

The Peace

May the peace of the Christmas Child –
the soft peace of a starlit night,
the noisy peace of a crowded stable,
the challenging peace of life
and love fully lived and freely shared –
enfold, enrich and energise you.

Mysterious God, confounding our expectations
Meeting us where we least expect to find you

Stay with us now

Christmas Child, healing our pain
Sharing our weakness

Stay with us now

Source of all life
Presence of God within us

Stay with us now

Stay with us in our frailty
Stay with us on our journey
Walk beside us and live within us
Lead us onwards, lead us home