



Touchstone

Prayers for Advent 2017

Triocular Vision

I'm not sure if triocular is a word but it is this sort of vision we need for Advent.

Traditionally we look back at the events of Jesus' birth and forward to his second coming when all is brought to fruition at the end of time as we know it. We need a third vision more than ever – looking for his presence in life as it is in our life and the lives of all around the globe.

Invite God to bring to your mind moments in your own life which inspired gratitude, or love, or hope.

Invite God to sharpen your eyes to see "God with us" in the broken places of our lives, our families and our global family.

A Prayer of Focus on God

We come in these moments to God,
In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to God, who has come to us in Jesus,
And who walks with us the road of our world's suffering.

We come with our faith and with our doubts.

We come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are, because it is God who invites us to come.

And God has promised never to turn us away.



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KENOSIS

In sleep his infant mouth works in and out.
He is so new, his silk skin has not yet
been roughed by plane and wooden beam
nor, so far has he had to deal with human
doubt.

He is in a dream of nipple found,
Of blue-white milk, of curving skin
and, pulsing in his ear, the inner throb
of a warm heart's repeated sound.

His only memories float from fluid space.
So new he has not pounded nails, hung a door,
broken bread, felt rebuff, bent to the lash,
wept for the sad heart of the human race.
(From *Harvesting Fog* Luci Shaw Pinyon Publishing
with kind permission from the poet)

Christmas

As we look into the face of the Babe of
Bethlehem, the face of Defenceless love,
in your mercy look upon your troubled world:
fear and violence, homelessness and pollution,
grief and anxiety stalk it.

Move the hearts of governments and peoples
to use your gifts of wealth and skill to build
your kingdom of love, where we shall live free
from cruelty, neglect and fear, free to look into
the face of every person with welcome.

You are among us, Lord as you were in the
homeless babe in the stable.

As we come face to face with eternal
Goodness, may the human spirit be renewed.
(#99 *Celtic Prayers For Life Today* Ray Simpson, Kevin
Mayhew)