

# Here in This Place

Songs in Search of Meaning and Wholeness



From Poems

by

Helen Wiltshire

## Here in this Place

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A golden sunrise, a newborn baby, a friend's embrace say something to us of beauty and love and mystery and, for some, they hint at the numinous, the sacred. These poems are an attempt to enter the 'thin place' where our lives touch this mystery. They also reflect the willingness of the Pilgrim community to explore new understandings of faith. My thanks to Norman Inglis for assistance with ensuring a proper fit of words with the music and in selecting suggested tunes.

Helen Wiltshire

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# A Journey

Words: Helen Wiltshire  
Suggested tune: Cruger 76.76D

- 1 Dawn heralds this day's journey;  
light floods the earth with gold;  
we feast on morning's freshness  
as peace our world enfolds.  
Earth offers us her beauty;  
bright blue the sky and sea;  
we pause in silent wonder,  
at one with all we see.
- 2 Trees reach into the sunlight;  
bright dewdrops on their leaves;  
we wait in joy or sorrow  
as life her pattern weaves.  
Wind dances in the valleys;  
flight takes the birds to air;  
we hold these fleeting moments  
as signs of sacred care.
- 3 Clouds move across the heavens;  
light breaks within the storm;  
we bless the rain of winter  
as night again is born.  
Dusk calls the world to slumber;  
night draws the Milky Way;  
we rest in sacred spaces,  
as darkness ends the day.
- 4 Creation in completeness,  
vitality and grace;  
gives warmth and hope and meaning  
to all the human race.  
Life shares with us her treasures;  
our hearts and minds aware;  
we give our thanks for living,  
as joyful life we share.

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# A Prayer for Sacredness

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Ombersley 88.88

*Based on Phillipians 4:8*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 May we love goodness and give praise<br>and offer reverence all our days.<br>May joy infuse our day and night,<br>as hope fills life with inner light.  | 3 May spirit, soul and thought combine<br>with feelings, body, heart and mind.<br>May sacredness our lives infuse,<br>as love and truth we daily choose.    |
| 2 May words of justice fill our ears<br>and faithful trust dispel our fears.<br>May insight make us truly wise,<br>as beauty's gifts our hearts surprise. | 4 As we give thanks and offer praise,<br>God's peace will fill our nights and days.<br>As we give care and gently bless,<br>we walk the path of sacredness. |

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# A World of Beauty

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Gaelic Air 87.87 D

- 1 Paint a world of vibrant colours,  
hues of gold and green and blue.  
Shape the hills in burnt sienna;  
shade the verdant valleys too.  
Sing the seas with changing beauty;  
touch the salty wind-swept spray;  
hold the setting sun in splendour  
at the dying of the day.
- 2 Walk the silver path of moonlight;  
enter twilight's mystery;  
hear the murmur of the ocean;  
touch the tides and restless sea.  
Shape the clouds in grey and silver;  
see the sunlight's golden haze;  
touch the glory that is fleeting  
as the sunset ends the day.
- 3 Fling the stars into the heavens;  
set the universe ablaze;  
sing the requiem of daylight;  
hold the night sky in our gaze.  
Hear the planet in its turning  
sing an ancient symphony;  
in the colour of the music  
touch its sacred history.
- 4 Still our minds to sense the wonder  
of our earth's tranquility;  
feel the stillness and the silence  
of its deep divinity.  
Pause in awe and silent wonder;  
feel the earth's vitality.  
Love creation and Creator,  
live the daily mystery.

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# Behold

Words: Helen Wiltshire  
Suggested tune: French 86.86

- 1 Behold and look with inner eye  
on all earth's loveliness:  
the forest green, the azure sky,  
the living air so fresh.
- 2 Behold with wise and open heart  
the way we work and live,  
and balance all we need to take  
with all we need to give.
- 3 Behold and bring a thoughtful mind  
to listen to the wise,  
to grasp the truth of climate change  
before our planet dies.
- 4 Behold with spirit and with soul  
earth's gentle sacredness,  
and choose to live in harmony  
and daily mindfulness.

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# Behold a Mystery

Words: Helen Wiltshire  
Suggested tune: Martham 88.88

- 1 In birth, behold a mystery,  
time now to live, time now to be;  
for loving care and gift of days,  
we offer thanks; we sing our praise.
- 2 In joy, behold a mystery,  
time now to glow with ecstasy;  
for inner warmth and tender gaze,  
we offer thanks; we sing our praise.
- 3 In pain, behold a mystery,  
time now to hurt and gently heal;  
for broken hearts and shadowed years  
we offer grief; we bring our tears.
- 4 In death, behold a mystery,  
time now for loss and clarity;  
for darkened days and silent fears,  
we offer grief; we bring our tears.
- 5 In love, behold a mystery,  
time now for hearts' abundancy;  
for gentle grace and sharing ways,  
we offer thanks; we sing our praise
- 6 In life, behold a mystery,  
time now to dare; time now to be;  
for friends to share God's gift of days,  
we offer thanks; we sing our praise.

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# Being

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Felicity 87.87

*"I felt the sentiment of Being spread o'er all the moves, and all that seemeth still ...  
I saw one life and felt that it was joy." 'The Prelude' by William Wordsworth*

*"In God, we live and move and have our being." Acts, ch.17.*

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | As we live and have our being,<br>we will dwell in sacredness;<br>we will dare to seek for meaning;<br>we will share life's joyfulness.  | 4 | We will live and move and offer<br>all this life our dreams have caught,<br>sharing visions of a future,<br>far beyond the reach of thought. |
| 2 | As we grow and seek for wisdom,<br>we will look with inner sight;<br>when all life is seen as beauty,<br>we will live with deep delight. | 5 | We will ponder life's rich meaning,<br>finding bliss within us still;<br>as we hold our hearts in rapture,<br>life with wonderment we fill.  |
| 3 | As we move and act for justice,<br>we will walk compassion's way,<br>speak with clarity and courage,<br>living out the words we say.     | 6 | We are moved and called to being<br>by a love that knows no bounds;<br>we discover in our sharing<br>life and love and joy profound.         |

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# Beloved

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Carlisle 66.86

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 We know ourselves beloved:<br>beloved and called to be<br>now present to a sacred call<br>and to divinity.                | 4 We know ourselves beloved:<br>beloved and called to weep;<br>we're called from fear and faithlessness<br>to wake and rise from sleep. |
| 2 We know ourselves beloved:<br>beloved and called to go<br>into a wilderness of doubt,<br>a clearer path to know.          | 5 We know ourselves beloved:<br>beloved and called to die;<br>we're called to face mortality<br>and drink grief's chalice dry.          |
| 3 We know ourselves beloved:<br>beloved and called to care;<br>now called to passion and to love,<br>a deeper life to dare. | 6 We know ourselves beloved:<br>beloved and called to rise;<br>now called to live a Christ-like life<br>with grace that God supplies.   |

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# Blessing

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Capetown 77.75

- 1 Infant born of human love;  
life entrusted to our care;  
Love, new born, has come to us;  
love we all may share.
- 2 Water is a sacred sign;  
sign of promise and of grace;  
child of hope, we welcome you,  
to this sacred space.
- 3 May your life be blessed by love;  
may you walk in wisdom's way;  
may you live abundantly,  
thankful, ev'ry day.

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# Breathe in the Morning Air

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Love Unknown 66.66.4444

*A song inspired by Psalm 23*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Breathe in the morning air; inhale its fragranc<br/>Be still and trust the sacredness that dwells within;<br/>who's ever near; who knows our fears;<br/>whose presence calms our restless souls.</p>     | <p>3 Walk in the way of love, of justice and of peace.<br/>Bring loving to a world of pain and loneliness.<br/>Reach out in love and gentleness to heal the hurt of brokenness.</p>                        |
| <p>2 Rest in this sacred space; lie down in pastures green.<br/>Be present to the myst'ry of this holy place.<br/>Hear singing streams; feel earth's embrace;<br/>see how our lives are touched by grace.</p> | <p>4 Here in this darkest vale, shadowed by grief and fear,<br/>we sense a loving presence that our hearts sustain.<br/>Our fears subside; our minds are calm;<br/>our panic flees, and peace remains.</p> |
- 5 Trust in the love of God; believe that goodness lives,  
that hope and joy and beauty will embrace our days.  
Pursued by love and touched by grace,  
our thankful hearts will offer praise.

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# Come and Share this Land

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: *Orientis Partibus 77.77*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Come and share this land we know;<br>come and live and love and grow;<br>share the gift of who you are;<br>bring your music from afar.     | 3 Here is room for all to live;<br>here is love and care to give.<br>As we share these early days,<br>help us understand your ways.              |
| 2 Leaving home and family,<br>you have crossed the stormy sea.<br>Welcome here as friend and kin;<br>may your life anew begin.               | 4 Plant a tree and watch it grow;<br>learn new skills and seek to know.<br>Sing and dance and live in peace;<br>may your dreams of terror cease. |
| 5 Come and share this land so fair;<br>come and breathe its healing air.<br>As we gather face to face,<br>we are blessed with gift of grace. |  |

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# Dawn

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Anything to 77.65

*Inspired by Psalm 30*

- 1 Golden light is dawning;  
sunrise greets the morning;  
earth sings her canticle;  
songs of praise at dawn.
- 2 Dark the night of weeping;  
tears we shed while sleeping;  
peace comes with morning;  
hearts may sing at dawn.
- 3 Praise the gift of morning;  
new with hope and longing;  
sacred the stillness;  
life renewed at dawn.

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# Doubts and Faith

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Love Unknown 66.66.4444

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Come to a sacred space with open heart and mind;<br/>come willing to explore and seek a living faith.<br/>In this new space, we long to gain<br/>a faith that touches joy and pain.</p> <p>2 We come with questions deep; we come with answers few,<br/>yet longing for some light to shine upon our quest.<br/>We take the risk of losing faith,<br/>yet we can walk no other path.</p> <p>3 We gently put aside concepts and creeds of old,<br/>yet seek some ancient wisdom that our hearts may hold.<br/>From seeds of doubt, new life may flow,<br/>if given care and space to grow.</p> | <p>4 Finding a bridge of faith that has integrity,<br/>we'll work with all who seek to walk with honesty.<br/>With openness and hearts of grace,<br/>we touch the wisdom of each faith.</p> <p>5 We honour Muslim prayer and treasure Hebrew thought.<br/>We see the noble pathway that the Buddhist treads.<br/>A Christian hymn, a Hindu prayer,<br/>speak of a sacredness we share.</p> <p>6 What do we hold as true? Compassion for each one,<br/>justice and love for ev'ry creature on this earth;<br/>the sacredness of human care;<br/>this is a path that all may share.</p> |
|--|---|

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# Explore, Engage Embrace

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Ewing 76.76D

- 1 Explore the world of nature;  
discover life anew;  
see each of earth's rich seasons,  
and ever-changing hues.  
Explore the world of matter;  
see galaxies newborn;  
hear whale songs from the oceans;  
hear magpie calls at dawn.
- 2 Engage the world of science;  
share in her endless quest;  
grasp wisdom's understanding,  
her striving for the best.  
Engage the world of atoms;  
untangle coded genes;  
hear questioning and answers  
with visioning and dreams.
- 3 Embrace the world of wonder;  
discover mystery;  
see nature's wild profusion  
and rich complexity.  
Embrace the world of beauty  
as new surprises spring;  
hear some of the unspoken;  
live with deep questioning.
- 4 Exploring and embracing,  
we've daily life to share,  
enriched with sacred passion,  
with watchfulness and care.  
Engaging and embracing,  
we celebrate and pray;  
beholding and believing,  
we offer praise this day.

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# Faithful Seasons

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Au Clair de la Lune 65.65D

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Flow'ring in the summer, jacaranda blue,<br>gold and cream in sunlight, frangipani too.<br>Seeded crops and harvest, fruit of earth and<br>soil,<br>summer's gift of plenty, born of human toil.        | 3 Orange trees are fruiting in the winter rain;<br>rivers are rejoicing, flowing deep again.<br>Earth is dark and silent, tree roots searching<br>deep,<br>daffodils are dancing, woken from their sleep.                   |
| 2 Gum trees in the autumn share their lemon<br>haze;<br>crocuses in splendour offer daily praise.<br>Autumn leaves are falling, gold and brown<br>and red;<br>nature's life renewing, earth again is fed. | 4 Pink and white the springtime, perfumes on<br>the breeze,<br>green the leaves so tender, clothing all the<br>trees.<br>Faithful are the seasons, gifts of sacred care;<br>celebrate their beauty, as this earth we share. |

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# Friendship

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Scottish Traditional

10.10.10.10

- 1 Friendship gives meaning to life and to faith,  
true understanding, compassion and grace.  
Friendship is joyful, a song to be sung;  
music created, a chorus begun.
- 2 Friendship births laughter, forgiveness and tears,  
growing in beauty with each passing year.  
Friendship risks darkness, deep sorrow and pain,  
asking forgiveness, so love lives again.
- 3 Friendship wakes memory of those we embraced,  
partings and sorrow, deep grief we have faced.  
Friendship brings healing, new life and deep peace;  
hope that tomorrow our joy will increase.
- 4 Friendship needs patience, with silence and space,  
dawning awareness, with nurture and grace.  
Friendship takes courage and infinite care,  
time now to listen and deep truths to share.
- 5 Friendship holds promise of seeds and of Spring,  
deepening wonder and love blossoming.  
Friendship is sacred, a gift of God's grace;  
may we be faithful as love we embrace.

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# Gifts of the Spirit

Words:Helen Wiltshire & Norman Inglis

Suggested tune: Cresswell 88.97.97

- 1 Life is a gift; daily reborn;  
life now to cherish, nurture to bloom.  
Mystery and wonder prompt us to bring  
bountiful thanks as we sing:  
*Sacred the life embracing us now;*  
*sacred the life that we share.*
- 2 Faith is a gift; daily reborn;  
faith now to cherish, life to adorn.  
Faith asking questions, offering space;  
faith touching wisdom with grace.  
*Sacred the faith embracing us now;*  
*sacred the faith that we share.*
- 3 Hope is a gift; daily reborn;  
hope now to cherish, life to adorn.  
Hope to awaken, vision made clear;  
hope conquering weakness and fear.  
*Sacred the hope embracing us now;*  
*sacred the hope that we share.*
- 4 Love is a gift; daily reborn;  
love now to cherish, life to adorn.  
Love gently shaping every breath;  
love ever stronger than death.  
*Sacred the love embracing us now;*  
*sacred the love that we share.*
- 5 Riches of God; daily reborn:  
Blessings to cherish, nurture to bloom.  
Gifts of the Spirit, great and small,  
Love! Greatest gift of them all.  
*Sacred the blessings embracing us now;*  
*sacred the blessings we share.*

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# Give Thanks

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Kremser 12.11.12.12

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Give thanks for the blessings we share in our living;<br/>give thanks for the gift of this welcoming day;<br/>give thanks for the nurture we knew from our birthing:<br/>for life, we sing a joyful song, and give our praise.</p> <p>2 Give thanks for the heartaches we hold in our being;<br/>give thanks for the grief of our sorrowful days;<br/>give thanks for the insights we gain in our growing;<br/>for life, we sing a joyful song, and give our praise.</p> | <p>3 Give thanks for the wisdom we find in our searching;<br/>give thanks for the friends who will travel our way;<br/>give thanks for the music we hear in our dreaming;<br/>for life, we sing a joyful song, and give our praise.</p> <p>4 Give thanks for the wonder of life in its flowering;<br/>give thanks for the joys of an indwelling grace;<br/>give thanks for the beauty and love we are sharing;<br/>for life, we sing a joyful song, and give our praise.</p> |
|---|--|

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# God Is

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Beechwood (altered) 6666

In loving, God is gift;  
in giving, God is care;  
in caring, God is grief;  
in grieving, God is grace.

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# God of Mystery

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Beechwood 56.64

- 1 God of mystery,  
whom words cannot contain,  
and minds cannot explain,  
Love is your name.
- 2 God of sun and moon,  
of dawn and darkest night,  
of shadows and of light,  
Joy is your name.
- 3 God of galaxies,  
of stars yet to be born,  
of stellar wind and storm,  
Life is your name.
- 4 God of deep desire,  
of tenderness and tears,  
of darkness and of fears,  
Hope is your name.

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# Gratitude

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Quam Dilecta 66.66

*“O Lord, who lends us life,  
lend us a heart replete with thankfulness.”*

*William Shakespeare*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Our gratitude we bring<br>for life we have been lent;<br>we sing our joyful thanks<br>for ev'ry day we're sent. | 3 Our gratitude we bring<br>for courage and for grace;<br>we sing our joyful thanks<br>for sacredness and space.          |
| 2 Our gratitude we bring<br>for cherished memories;<br>we sing our joyful thanks<br>for gifts and energies.       | 4 Our gratitude we bring<br>from hearts with love replete;<br>we sing our joyful thanks<br>for lives with faith complete. |

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# Here in Community

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Anything to 77.65

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Eat the bread and drink this wine;<br>come and share this sacred sign.<br>Love that we celebrate;<br>grace for everyone. | 3 Here we bring our cup of tears,<br>sorrows, griefs and silent fears.<br>Here in community,<br>joy may live again. |
| 2 Here we bring our brokenness,<br>open hands and emptiness.<br>Here in community,<br>hope may live again.                 | 4 Here we touch divinity,<br>present in diversity.<br>Here in community,<br>love may live again.                    |
| 5 Eucharistic mystery,<br>lives again in you and me.<br>Here in community,<br>grace for everyone.                          |   |

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# Here in the Stillness

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: St Elisabeth 569.558

- 1 Here in the stillness,  
while the world is sleeping,  
Sirius is low in the eastern sky.  
Here in the starlight,  
we hold our vigil.  
Where is the joy for which we yearn?
- 2 Here in the shadows,  
as the day is dawning,  
creation stirring in deep desire.  
Here in this conflict,  
we long for wholeness.  
Where is the peace for which we yearn?
- 3 Here at the birthing  
while the child is crowning,  
mystery revealed in a newborn child.  
Here in our open arms,  
we hold the future.  
Sing and rejoice! Love's child is born!

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# Here's a New Day

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Woodlands 10.10.10.10

- 1 Here's a new day,  
fresh gift from God of grace.  
We sense God's presence in this sacred space;  
let us be mindful of God's blessing here,  
pausing, rejoicing, held in God's good care.
- 2 Here in awareness,  
gift from God of grace,  
may we awaken in this sacred space,  
moved to compassion, open heart and hand,  
linked to each other, meeting love's demand.
- 3 Here in creation,  
gift from God of grace,  
divine embracing of the human race;  
woven together, intimate and free,  
holy the ground connecting you and me.
- 4 Here in belonging,  
gift from God of grace,  
interconnected in this sacred space,  
and in the web of life each one may share,  
held in God's love, surrounded by God's care.

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# I imagine

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Jackson 86.86

- 1 Imagine now our world renewed  
with colours rich and rare;  
imagine too the earth newborn,  
and cradled close with care.
- 2 Imagine too this earth enriched  
with forests evergreen,  
with sunlit streams and dancing light,  
and perfumed air so clean.
- 3 Consider now this galaxy  
and earth our home in space;  
a fragile planet, in our hands  
sustained by caring grace.
- 4 Imagine now a sacred quest  
to heal earth's brokenness;  
a pledge to walk in wisdom's way  
and live with hopefulness.

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# Joy

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Anything to 77.65

*A reflection on Psalm 30*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Joy is life and litany,<br>gently sung in symmetry;<br>joy, beyond words we say,<br>calls us all to pray. | 3 Joy is sight and clarity,<br>soulful gaze and mystery;<br>joy like a star, bright,<br>lights our darkest night.     |
| 2 Joy is song and symphony,<br>words of hope and harmony;<br>joy, like a melody,<br>calls us all to sing.   | 4 Joy is warm and nurturing,<br>shaped within our sheltering;<br>joy comes with love's care;<br>joy is ours to share. |

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# Kindness

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Mozart from Magic Flute 8.8.8.8.8.8

*“ ..... little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love” Wordsworth*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Unnamed, unknown and undisplayed,<br>the acts of kindness daily made;<br>kind deeds to strangers and to friends,<br>the helping hand that loving lends.<br>True kindness will love's presence bring<br>as joy and blessings newly spring. | 3 The unremembered kindly deed<br>is gift of grace in time of need;<br>the healing power of kindly gift<br>will every shadowed spirit lift.<br>True kindness shows God's loving care<br>in human touch, good news we share.   |
| 2 The secret acts of kindly care<br>endow each life with treasure rare;<br>and kindness given without delay<br>is love divine shared every day.<br>True kindness shows God's presence lives<br>in all who receive and all who give.         | 4 We shall not pass this way again,<br>so may our kindness touch life's pain;<br>one kindly deed may friendship seal<br>and will a deeper truth reveal:<br>True kindness shows God's grace to be<br>revealed in all humanity. |

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# Prayer

Words:Helen Wiltshire & Norman Inglis  
Suggested tune: Oxford 77.77 D

- 1 Fragment of eternity;  
fleeting glimpse of mystery;  
webs to catch our ev'ry thought;  
nets of gold where joys are caught;  
breath of spaciousness and grace;  
love indwelling sacred space.  
*Voices fervent as we share  
yearnings of our hearts in prayer.*
- 2 Shadow of reality;  
healing light of clarity;  
star to shine on darkened fears;  
veil of silk to hold our tears;  
love that reaches troubled hearts;  
hope newborn as grief departs.  
*Voices fervent as we share  
yearnings of our hearts in prayer.*
- 3 River of divinity  
flowing for eternity;  
deep the stream of love's embrace,  
hushed the stillness of this space;  
pearls of beauty to be found;  
treasures held in holy ground.  
*Voices fervent as we share  
yearnings of our hearts in prayer.*

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# Remember

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: St Bernard 86.86

- 1 Remember when our earth was green,  
and gently fell the rain,  
when rivers sang their sweetest songs,  
renewing earth again?
- 2 Remember when the forests walked  
on mountain and on plain,  
and shared with us their living breath,  
our planet to sustain?
- 3 Remember when we closed our minds  
and watched earth slowly die,  
when science talked of climate change  
and we that truth denied?
- 4 Today we have a chance to change  
our acts of heart and mind,  
a chance to live in harmony,  
with earth and humankind.
- 5 Today we offer open hands  
and cradle earth with care;  
we choose to live sustainably,  
abundant life to share.
- 6 To share a plentitude of grace  
with those who live on less,  
to walk with wisdom in this world,  
and tread with gentleness.

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# Season of Gifts

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Mozart from Magic Flute 8.8.8.8.8.8

*This Advent/Christmas song is based on GIFT as an acronym for Grace, Illumination, Faith and Transformation*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 In twilight's calm and gentle space<br/>we find a safe and healing place;<br/>in times of grief and silent pain<br/>comes gift of grace for hearts again.<br/>This gift of grace our days will bless,<br/>and lead our lives to loveliness.</p> <p>2 In midnight's dark and shadowed light<br/>we seek for wise and inner sight;<br/>in quest for truth to lives inspire<br/>comes gift of light as flame and fire.<br/>This gift of light our days will bless<br/>and bring to all life's hopefulness.</p> | <p>3 In morning's song, as hearts are stirred,<br/>we move to music faintly heard;<br/>in search for truth, new paths to take,<br/>comes gift of faith our minds to wake.<br/>This gift of faith our days will bless<br/>and bring to all life's sacredness.</p> <p>4 In daylight's warm and welcome air,<br/>with grace and light and faith to share,<br/>comes here, to challenge and transform,<br/>this holy child,*(soon to be)/(now newly) born.<br/>With hearts renewed, love's giving grows,<br/>as life with loving overflows.</p> |
|--|---|

*\* as appropriate - the latter for Christmas Day itself*

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# See the World Clearly

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Tenderness 5.5.10 D

*In this Advent song, the words "re-connection" and "re-remembering" (here abbreviated poetically) are used as images of discovering and rediscovering, through the senses, the Christ already incarnate within each of us.*

- 1 See the world clearly;  
see the Christ present;  
come to awareness, come with new sight.  
Share in the wonder,  
re-memb'ring ever,  
imaging Christ with sheer joy and delight.
- 2 Hear the words truly;  
hear the Christ present;  
sounds of Christ's coming for listening ears.  
Share in the wonder,  
re-memb'ring ever,  
music resounding and stilling our fears.
- 3 Taste the love fully;  
taste the Christ present;  
sweet and sour flavours in service of grace.  
Embrace the wonder,  
re-memb'ring ever  
communal life in this sacred place.
- 4 Touch the grace gently;  
touch the Christ present,  
holding the presence within hearts and hands.  
Share re-connection,  
re-memb'ring ever  
life in all fullness that loving demands.
- 5 Live incarnation;  
live the Christ present,  
living each day the divine to impart.  
Share re-connection,  
re-memb'ring ever  
Christ's life embodied in human heart.

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# Stars

Words:Helen Wiltshire & Norman Inglis  
Suggested tune: Lobt Gott 8.6.8.8.6

- 1 Last night, among the stars we saw,  
in shimmering summer sky,  
bleak homes and streets aflame with war,  
as folk sought refuge on our shore:  
'a chance for peace!' their cry.
- 2 Last night, beneath a starry sky,  
in clear galactic light,  
we saw the hungry children die,  
and heard with guilt their plaintive cry:  
no hope for peace that night.
- 3 Tonight, as countless stars we view,  
within the Milky Way,  
a glimpse of light and hope breaks through;  
now to our world comes life anew,  
for peace has come to stay.
- 4 Tonight, within this sacred space,  
ere stars give way to dawn,  
we cradle love with human face,  
and share the gift of gentle grace:  
the Prince of peace is born.
- 5 Tonight, beneath a shining star,  
this Child of peace we greet:  
we join the sages from afar,  
and bring the gift of who we are:  
a gift of love complete.

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# Stillness

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Mannheim 87.87.87

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 When the storm has lost its thunder,<br>when the wind has ceased to blow,<br>we see skies in cloudless wonder<br>touching earth with golden glow.<br>To this place of inner stillness,<br>we are called by sacredness. | 3 When the silence comes unbidden,<br>we touch love and joy profound;<br>faith is like a treasure hidden,<br>deep within life's holy ground.<br>In the light of inner stillness,<br>sacred love our lives will bless.              |
| 2 When our minds have ceased their chatter,<br>when we lose our grasp of time,<br>we recall the things that matter,<br>open to a sense sublime.<br>In this gift of inner stillness,<br>sacredness has come to bless.     | 4 When we dwell with inner stillness,<br>life is touched by love and grace;<br>when our lives know shadowed sadness,<br>we find healing in this space.<br>In the glow of inner stillness,<br>warmth and love our lives will bless. |

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# Talents to Share

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Au Clair de la Lune 65.65

- 1 Artist paints a picture, drawing us to see  
harmony and tension, perfect symmetry.  
Dancer steps to music, hands like birds that  
soar,  
beauty in the movement, held by earth no  
more.
- 2 Author tells a story, shaping words with  
skill,  
hinting at life's anguish, eager minds to fill.  
Sculptor chisels marble, images set free,  
carving out a vision, love's reality.
- 3 Singer wakes the music, voiced with silver  
sigh,  
taking us to wonder, space for joys to fly.  
Mystic offers wisdom, faith we seek to  
hold,  
treasure mined from stillness, greater gift  
than gold.
- 4 Poet speaks in riddles, sharing words and  
themes,  
phrase and verse revealing human hopes  
and dreams.  
Harpist plucks our hearts strings, music on  
the air,  
notes of sunlight streaming, calling all to  
prayer.
- 5 Lute and cello solo, skills of hands and voice,  
thankful for these blessings, gladly we rejoice.  
Sacred are these talents, wondrous gifts of art;  
wisdom shared and honoured, stirring soul and heart.

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# The Love we Share

Words:Helen Wiltshire  
Suggested tune: Martham 88.88

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 The love we share is born of grace;<br>its beauty shines on every face.<br>The love we feel and daily give,<br>melts hurt and offers hope to live.               | 3 The love we share will hurt forgive;<br>its gentle grace again will live.<br>The love we risk and once more bear,<br>heals wounds with oil of generous care. |
| 2 The love we share is touched with pain,<br>as grieving hearts weep once again.<br>The love we trust and seek to show,<br>links peace and hope as blessings flow. | 4 The love we share will always sing;<br>its music soars with joyous ring.<br>The love we cast and scatter free,<br>endures for all eternity.                  |

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# Weave our Lives Together

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Glenfinlas 65.65

*A reflection on Psalm 139*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Weave our lives together,<br>sinew, blood and bone;<br>shape us in completeness,<br>secret and yet known.       | 3 Hold us in enchantment;<br>nurture us in grace;<br>search us in our being;<br>carve for us a place.   |
| 2 Knit our souls together,<br>spirit, mind and heart;<br>weave us in the darkness;<br>craft our ev'ry part.       | 4 Draw us to your presence,<br>gather us in care;<br>call us to your beauty;<br>nourish each one there. |
| 5 Woven, shaped and living;<br>held within love's womb;<br>may we spring and flourish,<br>grow and come to bloom. |   |

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# We Celebrate this Life

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: St Cecilia 66.66

- 1 We celebrate this life,  
its span of earthly years;  
its gift to us of love,  
of laughter and of tears.
- 2 We celebrate this life,  
with gratitude and prayer;  
its energy and skills  
are blessings we all share.
- 3 We celebrate this life,  
its essence and its soul;  
the courage, hopes and dreams,  
the pilgrimage and goals.
- 4 We celebrate this life,  
its beauty and its pain;  
the gentle moments shared  
that will not come again.
- 5 We celebrate this life,  
its energy and breath;  
the stillness and the sleep,  
the dawn we know as death.
- 6 We celebrate this life,  
and in this sacred space,  
we bring our prayers of thanks  
for all good gifts of grace.

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# Wisdom

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: Ottawa 87.87.77

*A reflection on verses from Proverbs, Job, Sirach and the Psalms*

- 1 When the galaxies were forming,  
planets born from clouds of dust,  
Wisdom moved across the heaven,  
shaping stars and nebula.  
Wisdom drew the mist away,  
at the dawning of earth's day.
- 2 Wisdom stirred the dust and ashes,  
as she breathed us into life;  
Wisdom forged us out of stardust;  
from her love, came human form.  
Wisdom's grace shaped our design,  
melding human and divine.
- 3 What is wealth compared to wisdom?  
What is gold compared to her?  
We may love her more than beauty;  
we may seek her treasure rare.  
Wisdom seeks in us to grow;  
Wisdom's life, we all may know.
- 4 Wisdom comes to bring us insight,  
clarity we're slow to seek.  
Wisdom's words are heard in stillness,  
when we pause to hear her speak.  
Wisdom's love will never cease;  
Wisdom draws us into peace.
- 5 Wisdom leads us into wholeness,  
as she calls us each by name.  
Though we choose a lesser pathway,  
wisdom loves us still the same.  
Wisdom speaks! We hear her call;  
into God, she draws us all.

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# Within

Words:Helen Wiltshire

Suggested tune: O Waly Waly 88.88

- 1 Within our lives are seams of gold,  
talents to stir; gifts to unfold.  
Within our lives, the sacred gives  
a call to life we've yet to live.
- 2 Within our hearts are joys to share,  
deep love to give and gentle care;  
the gift of grace forgiveness makes:  
within our hearts, the sacred wakes.
- 3 Within our minds are words that live,  
reflections wise with hope to give,  
and embers stirred, a fire that glows:  
within our minds, the sacred grows.
- 4 Within our souls are myst'ries deep,  
joys given life and hopes that leap,  
visions newborn and given wings:  
within our souls, the sacred sings.
- 5 Within each heart and soul and mind  
are dreams for earth and humankind,  
new ways to live with paths untrod:  
a sacred space infused by God.

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