

Prayer ~ Christmas Eve 2017

No 833

Readings: John 1: 1-5, 10-14; Isaiah 9: 2-6

For reflection and prayer

*Helpless, vulnerable, exposed.
A frail human baby born in a cattle shed -
in such a manner God made His home among us,
that we might be drawn to Him
through His very defencelessness.*

*There was no one to deny entry
to that Bethlehem stable;
no security locks, no guards,
no barriers of any kind;
indeed, in Christ,
God came to break all barriers down.*

*To respond to that love
which risks all in reaching out to us,
we surely must also take risks
in reaching out to others.
Risk being misunderstood,
risk having our overtures rejected,
risk becoming vulnerable, defenceless.*

*How else can the true Christian message
be transmitted?
How else can the word of peace,
the word of reconciliation,
become flesh in us?*

*God is **light** -
light which penetrates
the darkness of evil
and can never be totally obliterated.
God is **peace** -
a sanctuary
amid all the discord, turmoil
and conflicts of life.
God is **hope** -
and even the clouds of hopelessness
which sometimes engulf us
cannot stifle that hope completely.
God is **comfort** -
thawing the chill
of our deepest sorrows
with warm compassion.
God is **healing** -
even for the self-inflicted wounds
of our wilful sinfulness.
God is **love** -
ever reaching out to us;
ever painfully breaking through
the thorny hedges
of the false hopes and dreams
with which we so easily surround ourselves.
God is **life** -
holding us secure
at the very gates of death,
and beyond.
The God who came in Christ
still comes, still lives among us
and we still may see His glory
(Edmund Banyard)*