

Loving God

Compassionate God

Bible stories can seem a package of words,  
Of comfortable feelings and calming images to some.  
But to others bundles of worn out phrases.  
Help us remember that at that first Christmas  
In the stable

You gave us such an important message

But rather than preach at us

Shout at us

Manipulate us

You gave us such a great gift

Your presence

You

God

Come to share with us

All that it means to be human.

Your son is the light of the whole world

Yet you didn't spare Jesus the suffering of life;

Suffering even to death on a cross

And the Easter triumph of the empty tomb.

We praise you

Glorious risen Jesus

Friend and stranger to us

Who joins us on the way and changes everything.

We follow where you would lead  
Though we don't know clearly  
The way ahead  
And though the path we stumble along  
May be hard  
Keep us walking in your light  
Travelling steadfastly with hope on our way with you  
Teach us to live as pilgrim people  
Knowing that in your love we are forgiven  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
One God now and for ever.