

at the manger: O God, all things are transformed: the haughty are made humble, the powerful become weak, the weak find strength to endure, the rich learn that they are really poor, the poor discover that they have an Advocate from heaven. Our dreams are no longer for self but for others; our desire is no longer for ~~things~~ security but for rest and security; our worship is no longer for things of this world but for you, Almighty Creator, Joy, Redeemer, Bright and Morning Star and hope for all the ~~ages~~ in the light of the Stable, O God, teach us to see the world as you see it. Where disabled persons and persons with epilepsy and persons with aids are more important than kings and governors and legislators. Where it matters more that children go to bed hungry than that space ships reach distant planets; more that there are men & women who cannot read than that there are men and women too busy to read; more that there are elderly people frightened of going for the grocery store than that there are beautiful shopping malls all around us.

You have given us so much, O God, and we have given you so little. What can we give you this Christmas time? Help us to give you our hearts, like little children in joyful giving, trust so that they become filled with radiance beyond our own imagining; and then help us to live our lives for others, hearing their ~~needs~~ being sensitive to their feelings, loving their wounds, being their friends and advocates, until they know that you are in the world, reconciling all things unto yourself, and making every day Christmas day, until Christ Himself shall be Lord of lords and King of kings. Amen