

We have decided

We have decided not to die.
We have decided not to trust
the voices of cynicism
the prophets of doom
the harbingers of despair
the proclaimers of fear
who speak loudly and only
of death that's inevitable.

We have decided not to die.
We have chosen to believe in life.
And now we must learn how to live.

We have decided not to die.
And now we must learn to live.
To really live
to stretch and wonder and test and dare
to imagine the unthinkable
to defy the gravity of fear and despair
to find the faith that believes there is
another story -
of life, grace and redemption -
and to live as though it is the only story.

We will listen
for where God's heartbeat
is giving life to
the world
and we will search,
wildly, unceasingly
until we find where our own heartbeat
echoes in it.
And though it may mean
letting go of all we know,
we will.

For we have decided not to die.
We have decided now to live.

Cheryl Lawrie



Labyrinth Journey

† life is a journey
- as you walk reflect on your life's journey
and your relationship with God
† walk slowly
† avoid the temptation to chat with others
on the journey
† use the journey in to the centre
to quiet down, to slow down,
to let go of busyness and stress,
to confess sin and ask forgiveness,
and to prepare to meet with God
† as you walk be aware of others on the
journey - pray for them
† sometimes you will be close to the
centre and sometimes close to the edge -
are you close or far from God on your
journey?
† as you reach the centre this is holy
space - a space to be with God in prayer -
stay there as long as you like
† listen - is there something God might be
saying to you?
† when you are ready begin the journey
out - as you do, take your encounter with
God with you back into the world
† pray for the presence of God in the
situations you are facing in everyday life
† as you finish the journey offer yourself
afresh to God

As you walk from here

It was just a few weeks ago, really,
that we were hanging fairy lights
and tinsel, unwrapping presents,
toasting Christmas with champagne,
and celebrating the Christ child
born in the world.

It would be so easy to let that be the
whole story of incarnation.

But today we can make a choice
to face the reality
of how this story of love incarnate
continues.

Today is a turning point in this story -
a day to recognise our humanity
and our mortality -
to remember that only God is God,
and to take a first step on the path
towards Good Friday
where Jesus shows us
just how God is God.

As you walk from here
leave behind the clutter and clamour
of a world that would
have us believe
there is another path to salvation,
and let each footstep take you closer to
the heart of God

Today we are marked
with a sign of a cross
to remember that we are dust
and that to dust we will return
and to commit ourselves to walking
this journey of lent.

Cheryl Lawrie

When the wilderness gathers

When the wilderness gathers around us
and we cannot make out the way
may we find your footsteps before us
in the dust of alleluias and shards of grace

that we may follow you
and find you in the scarcity
and know more of you
in a time of less of us

When the wilderness gathers around us
and Jerusalem rises
may we find the stories to trust
those of us who know the future

that we turn away from that
which the world so readily provides
of taking without first creating space
for renewal
and cling on instead to a way shaped and
known by love and justice

When the wilderness gathers round us
and the truth begins to take a shape
that is mismatched against all excess
may our footprints fill yours

into the bigger story
the deeper moment
the more holy way
and find you in us
living justly for others
trusting truth against lies
offering grace where self has always lain

When the wilderness gathers round us
and excess always tempts
may we send the devil into the darkness
and we struggle towards the light

Roddy Hamilton