



Advent Quiet Day Prayers

Open our eyes, Lord

Open our eyes, lord,
especially if they are half shut because we are tired of looking,
or half open because we fear to see too much,
or bleared with tears because yesterday and today and tomorrow are filled with the same pain,
or contracted because we only look at what we want to see.

Open our eyes, Lord
to gently scan the life we lead,
the home we have, the world we inhabit,
and so to find,
among the gremlins and the greyness,
signs of hope we can fasten on and encourage.

Give us, whose eyes are dimmed by familiarity,
a bigger vision of what you can do even with helpless case and lost causes and people of limited ability.

(pause)

Show us the world as in your sight, riddles with debt, deceit and disbelief,
yet also shot through with possibility for recovery, renewal, redemption.

(pause)

And, lest we fail to distinguish vision from fantasy, today, tomorrow, this week,
open our eyes to see one person or one place
where we – being even for a moment prophetic -might identify and wean a potential in the waiting.

(pause)

And with all this, open our eyes, in yearning, for Jesus.

(pause)

On the mountains,
in the cities,



through the corridors of power
and streets of despair,
to help, to heal,
to confront, to convert.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The desert will sing and rejoice

The desert will sing and rejoice
And the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour
See the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid
The blind will be able to see
The deaf will be able to hear
The lame will leap and dance
Those who can't speak will shout
They will hammer their swords into ploughs;
They will turn their spears into pruning knives
The nations will live in peace;
No more will they train for war.

This is the promise of God
God's promise will be fulfilled.

(from Isaiah 2:4 and 35:1,2,5,6. Prayers taken from Cloth for the Cradle. Wild Goose Worship Group)