

Reflectio

Prayers and Meditations



Adrian Luxmoore

Reflectio

Prayers

And

Meditations

Adrian Luxmoore

*All the work illustrated in this book
are copyright to the artist/author.
All rights reserved*

Copyright Adrian Luxmoore 2012

Dedication

*To all those who so generously
shared their gifts with me
without whom none of the work in
this volume would have been
realized.*

Contents

Beginnings

In the Beginning	1
Theotokos.....	3
Joseph.....	5
God Bearer.....	7
Goodwill Towards Men.....	8
Birth Narrative.....	11

Ministry

Anna, Prophet	12
Baptism.....	13
Call to Discipleship	15
The Breath of Life.....	16
Woman at the Well	17
The Hem of his Garment.....	18
Kingdom of Heaven.....	19
Labyrinth	20
Crumbs.....	21
Help Thou Mine Unbelief (1)	22
Help Thou Mine Unbelief (2)	23
Rich Man	24
Martha.....	25

Stations of the Cross

Do This In Remembrance of Me	27
Lord's Prayer.....	29
Life Eternal.....	30
The Rock	32
Crucify Him	33
Crown of Thorns	35
Carrying the Cross.....	36
They Know Not.....	37
Forsaken.....	39
Temptation	40
Remember Me.....	41
Centurion.....	42
Women's Work.....	43
Taking Care of the Body.....	45

Resurrection

First Easter.....	46
Holy Places	49
Emmaus	51

Contents (continued)

New Life

Psalm.....	52
Advent	53
Adrian's Creed	54
Nicene Creed: A Personal Translation.....	56
Names of God	57
Prayer.....	58
Inspiration	59
Pruning	61
Trinity.....	62
Quaternity	63
The Old Oak Tree	65
Christian Contemplation.....	67
Mystery of Faith	68
Offertory	70
Our Father.....	72
The Gifts of God	73
Body of Christ	74
The Body of Christ.....	75
Cup of Salvation.....	76
Is Easter Ever on Time	78
The Word of the Lord	70
The Pray-ers.....	81
The Holy Land	80

In the World

Negative Space	83
Reflection	84
Shadow	85
Blue Heron	86
Warm Hand.....	87
Riveaulx.....	89
White Squirrel.....	90
Endings	92
Penland Sunday Morning	93
Wren.....	94
Gold Finch	95
Life Work	96
Born Again Pagan	97
After a Period of Drought.....	98
After Her Death	99
Epitaph	100

List of Works Illustrated

(dimension given is height, except where noted)

Riveaulx, oil on canvas, 24"	front cover
Mother and Child, oil on canvas, 24"	frontispiece
Annunciation, ceramic, 13"	2
Holy Family, ceramic, 11"	4
Mother and Child (detail), ceramic, 10"	6
Mother and Child (brooch), silver 14kt gold, 1.5"	9
Mother and child, ceramic, 10" & 4"	10
Artist at Penland, photograph	10
Baptismal Bowl, Silver, 14kt gold, oak, 11" dia	14
Rattle, Silver, 2"	17
Neckpiece, 18kt gold, 4" dia	21
Kiddush Cup, silver, garnet, 5"	26
Chalice, Silver, 14kt gold 7"	28
Heads up, ceramic 26"	31
The Rock, silver, 14kt gold 7"	32
Dance Cross, 14 kt gold, pendant 3"	33
Crown of Thorns, Chalice, silver 8"	34
Rising from the Cross, pendant, silver, gold 2.5"	37
Crucifix, ceramic, boxwood 14"	38
Taking care of the Body, ceramic 12"	44
Rabboni, ceramic 13"	47
Risen from the Cross, chalice, silver 9"	50
Dawn, photographs	52
Advent hangings, silk, dye, 99" long	53
Creative Space, oil on canvas, 12"	58
Chalice (detail), silver	59
Chalice and Paten for Good Shepherd, silver 7.5"	60
Chalices and Patens for Roslyn, silver, oak, 7"	64
Norwich Cloisters, oil on canvas, 24"	66
Eucharist at St. Paul's, photographs	70,71
Tall Head, ceramic, 20"	72
Chalice, silver, 7.5"	76
Waiting to Receive, ceramic, 18"	80
Gesture (brooch), silver, 4"	83
Chalice (detail), silver, 7.5"	84
Crucifix (detail), ceramic, boxwood, 14"	85
Riveaulx, oil on canvas, 34"	88
White Squirrel, photograph	90
Attitude, ceramic, 20"	93
Gold Finch, photograph	95
Aleph Beit, Kiddush cup, silver, 6"	96
Self portrait, ceramic, 8"	100
Self portrait, oil on canvas, 30"	101
Cup, silver, 9"	back cover
In the Studio, photograph	back cover



In The Beginning

John 1:1
Genesis 1:1

In the beginning was Creator
And the Creator is God

In the beginning was Spirit
And the Spirit is God

In the beginning was Christ
And the Christ is God

At the beginning was darkness
At the beginning was potential
At the beginning was fertility

At the beginning was Holy Wisdom
And Holy Wisdom is God



Theotokos

Luke 1:26-38

“Be it unto me according to thy word”

*Her response to the angelic apparition
Whose answers to her questions
Were no answers at all*

*Faith
Obedience
Trust
Joy*

*Her son
A homeless healer
Teaching in riddles
Consorting with the rejected
Reviled by the authorities*

*Her son
The promised Messiah
Crucified in her presence
How much did she suffer?*

Is this what was foretold?

*Did she ever question
The presence of God
Or did she reaffirm
Her acceptance*

“Be it unto me according to thy word”

*Did she sense
The difference she made
That her words echo still
That the baby she bore
The child she nurtured
Lives on*

*That she
Lives on*



Joseph

Matthew 1:19-21

He had asked for her hand
Promises exchanged
Their betrothal was known
Their future assured

Now his world
Has been broken
She is with child
He did not know her

The story she told
Was beyond comprehension
But how could he doubt
The Word that she uttered

The customs were clear
He must send her away
Or shame would be with them
For all of their days

His vision came at night
The angel was clear
Her story was true
She bore the Son of God

With her he embraced
The call that God uttered
Made a home for his betrothed
The mother of God

Became father to God's son
Who brought Grace to the World



God Bearer

Luke 2:6-7

What is the gift
God has for me
This Christmas

The gift of new life
Born in a humble
Place in my heart

Because there is no room
For new life in the
Busy-ness of my thoughts

Announced by an Angel
New life conceived by the
Inspiration of the Spirit

What is the gift
I have for God
This Christmas

Hear the words
Of the angelic messenger
Say Yes to the Word of God

Nurture the new life
God has conceived in me
Bring it into the world

Share the gifts of God
With the people of God

Goodwill Towards Men

Luke 2:14

The first Gloria was sung
By angels on high
To shepherds watching their flock
Prefiguring the parable
Jesus will use in his ministry

The angels close proclaiming
"Glory to God in the highest
And on earth peace
Good will towards men"

Some authorities add:
"With whom He is pleased"

Others offer peace
"Among those whom He favors"

Is peace granted solely
to the males

Is peace granted exclusively
to God's favorites

Surely not





Birth Narrative

Luke 2:19

The image appears
As if I were seeing it
Or hearing the words
Of an angelic apparition
A creation awaiting realization

How can that be?
I do not have the skills
I am busy with something else
It will be rejected
It is not possible

The Spirit will provide
What is needed
Your Muse will guide
If you allow it

The answers are no answers at all
Yet the Spirit moves
Hands respond
Matter transformed

What seemed wrong
A mistake
Is seen to be right
After it has been rejected
When looked at prayerfully

What emerges is not
What was expected
It is something else
A God-sent creation
Brought into the world

Anna, Prophet

Luke 2:36-38

We sing and say Simeon's song
In our worship
Repeating his words
Proclaiming the Messiah
The opening of his eyes
To the truth of God

We do not sing or remember
The harder words
He said to Mary
About swords piercing her soul
And the fall and rise of many

Anna lives in Simeon's shadow
She too proclaimed the
Presence of the living Christ

Worshipping in the temple continually
With fasting and prayer
Giving thanks to God

Believing the Messiah was at hand
Sharing her wisdom and insight
With those seeking redemption

Baptism

Mark 1:11

*“You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.”*

*The grace of God
Announced before the beginning of
Jesus recorded ministry*

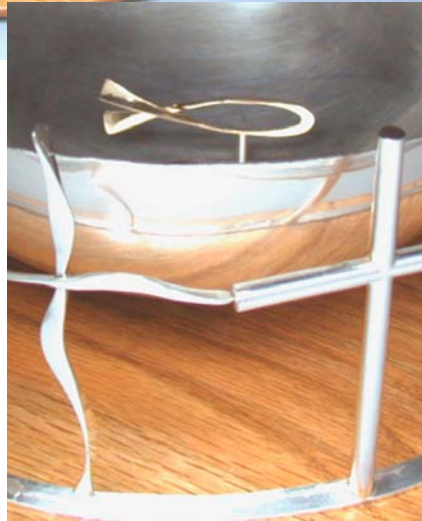
*Deeply embedded in our being
Is a feeling that we have to earn
God's blessing*

*That we are what we do
How we show our love*

*The voice from heaven
Identifies the newly baptized
As God's beloved Son
Before his ministry began*

*Would that we
Could hear that voice
And know that we
Are God's beloved*

*That our acceptance
Of God's grace and love
Inspires our life and work
In the world*



Call to Discipleship

Mark 1:16-20

On the lake bank
Working at tasks
They had been born to

They heard Jesus
Calling their name
They asked no questions
Dropped their nets

Left their families
Followed him
To be fishers of men

Where did they find
The courage to say yes
The faith to start the journey

Called into the world
To do work God gave them to do
Work they were not prepared for
Work they had never expected
Tasks that led them
Into life threatening situations

Why do we expect
That the work
God gives us to do
Will bring worldly joy

Can we discover
That the work we resist
Is the work
God gives us to do

The Breath of Life

John 3:8

Nicodemus is puzzled
Used to being an authority
He cannot grasp what Jesus is saying
How can someone be born again

Jesus tells of the difference
Between physical birth
And spiritual re-birth

The limitations of the body
And the freedom of the spirit

God's Grace gives us
The liberating power
The fire of the spirit
Everlasting life

Like Nicodemus
We respond
How can this be

A question that we need not ask
Whose answer we do not need

When we say yes
It just is

Woman at the Well

John 4:6-30

He waited by the well
She came to draw water
They talk of the necessities of life

Of water that refreshes the body
Of water that refreshes the soul

Of the connection between
Parable and reality

Where meaning becomes real
Where the real has meaning

She ran to share
The water that refreshes the body
And the water that refreshes the soul
With the men of her village



The Hem of his Garment

Mark 5:25-34

Twelve years
Blood shed
Deemed unclean
Rejected

Desperate for healing
For relief
From her pain

She dared to reach out
Seeking a touch
Of His garment

Power surged
Healing filled her
A miracle
From God

In the press
Of the crowd
How did he know

She had dared
To reach out
In faith and hope

Seeking wholeness
Seeking peace
Blessed by Him

Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 13:33

Leaven

Unseen agent of transformation

Spreading into the whole

Requiring only warmth

And nourishment

Living breathing organism

Deep inside the homely dough

Pushing it to new heights

Expanding its limits

So the spirit of Christ

Unseen presence

Deep in our human bodies

Works in us

Living breathing organism

Nurtured by our attention

Fed with prayers

Agent of our transformation

Expanding our horizons

Bringing eternal life

Labyrinth

John 14:6

We say
"You are the way"
We think we know what we say
But
The Truth is yet to be known

The way
To the center
Is full of unexpected turns
Of missteps and misdirection
Yet it is the Way

We approach
Then led away

The place we come to
The center
Is a temporary respite
Before we resume the journey
Out into the world

The Way connects
The center to the world

The Way is You

Crumbs

Mark 7:24-29

A foreigner
Not one of the Chosen
Rejected by Jesus

Uses a parable
To teach the
Parable teller

Jesus repents
Brings healing
To her child

Gentiles are included
In the Kingdom of God

We are included



Help Thou Mine Unbelief

Mark 9:24

The place where belief meets unbelief
The place where answers become questions
The place where faith is found and lost

Jung urged us to hold
The tension between opposites
Until the third way appears

The place where
Belief meets unbelief
Is the place where
New life will emerge

If we can just be
On the border where
Belief and unbelief
Exist together

The place where God's grace
May be received
And the apparent contradiction

Of asking God to help us
In our unbelief
Will make perfect sense.

Help Thou Mine Unbelief

Mark 9:24

The father has been told
All things are possible
To those that believe

His son is afflicted
With debilitating seizures
He is desperate for relief

"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief"

A heartfelt cry
An honest confession of
The limits of his faith

Our unbelief is revealed
In the despair we suffer
When life tests us

Are miracles really possible
Is healing possible if we just believe
How can that be

Our unbelief threatens our belief
And we can only pray
In our distress

That we will see the way
To acceptance of God's grace
For belief to cast out unbelief

New life is possible
Wholeness is possible
To those who believe
To those open to God's grace

Rich Man

Mark 10:17-22

He came to the teacher
Knowing something was missing
Despite his success
Despite his obedience

What must I do
To inherit eternal life

Give up all you have
Take up your cross
Follow me

How hard it is
To let go of our riches

The things
That help us feel
Safe and secure

The ideas we hold
The habits we are bound by

How hard it is to
Find new life
Think new thoughts
Loose our bonds

To take up our cross
And follow Him

To inherit eternal life

Martha

Luke 10:39 - 42

The Teacher is in her house
There is so much to do
To make him welcome

Mary sits at his feet
Listening and learning
Not sharing the work

Martha is burdened
Troubled with distractions
Doing more than is needed

A plea for relief
Earns a rebuke
"Mary chose well"

Martha's work is essential
Furthering the ministry
Of teaching and healing

Her work is ministry
Enabling others
To listen and learn

Embraced in love
The burden is light
The duties rewarding

Martha listens and learns
The lesson taught her
In his rebuke

Embraces her ministry
Of love and nourishment
Her burden is lifted



Do This In Remembrance of Me

Luke 22:19

We have done it countless times
Since Jesus gave us
His commandment
“This do in remembrance of me”

We are used to doing it
So its extraordinary nature
May be overlooked

What did they think
As he told them the
Bread that he broke
Was his body.

What did they think
As he gave them the wine
And told them it was his blood

That his body is given for them
His blood shed for them
As he stood there
Body and blood

We do it still
Hoping and praying
We will see the
Living Christ

That we will experience
Him as they did
After the resurrection
When he was present as

They broke bread
Poured wine
With the stranger



Lord's Prayer

Mark 14:32-42

In the garden
Jesus said
To his disciples
As he had taught them

“Pray that ye not
Enter into temptation”

The temptation
To sleep
Not watch
With him
Overcame them

In the garden
Jesus prayed
As he had taught

“If thou be willing
Remove this cup from me
But not my will
Thy will be done”

We say the prayer
So often
We may forget
Its significance

That it is the prayer
The disciples were
Asked to pray

It is the prayer
Jesus prayed
In his agony

As He awaited
Betrayal
In the garden

Life Eternal

John 17:3

Facing betrayal and death
Jesus was able to pray
"I glorified You by finishing
The work You gave me to do"

Facing betrayal and death
Jesus was able to pray
For eternal life for us
That we may know God

We can only hope and pray
That as we face death
We can say

That we have endeavored to do
The work God gave us to do

That we saw in doing that work
That we glorified God
And were privileged
With glimpses of
Life eternal



The Rock

Mark 14:72

The cock crew
A second time
Peter recalled
His Lord's foretelling

His accent had exposed him
Three times he denied
Shame filled him

Where are his friends
The other disciples

He had followed
Jesus here
But now was alone

Jesus had forgiven
in the act of foretelling

The apostle had forgotten
The other foretelling

Jesus had seen what lay ahead
For this apostle

His vow was fulfilled
He gave his life for his Lord

Upon this rock
The church was built



Crucify Him

Mark 15:13

*Just a few days before
The adoring crowd had
Greeted him with hosannas*

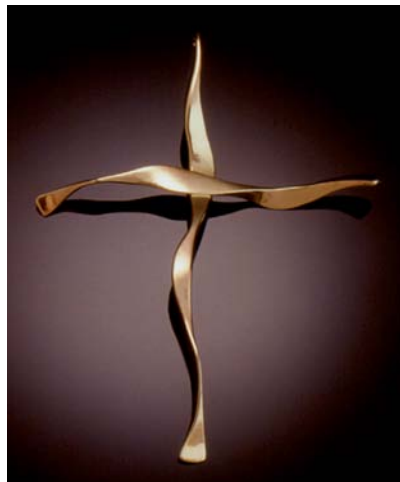
*This crowd has been
Stirred up and turned
By the chief priests*

*Jealous of the upstart
Who challenged their
Positions and power*

*Are we as easily swayed
By those in high office
Who claim to know*

*How can we discern
And listen to God
Speaking to us*

*How can we keep strength
In the turbulence of earthly life
To be loyal to God's purpose*





Crown of Thorns

Mark 15:17-20

“They wound a crown of thorns and wounded him.”

They sought to mock him
Exchanging thorns for laurels

To crown him with pain, not healing
To crown him with death, not life
To crown him with sarcasm, not truth
To crown him with weakness, not strength
To crown him with misery, not love

But the crown comes un-wound and

we are healed
we have life
we have truth
we have strength
we have love

By his wounds we are healed
By our wounds we are healed.
The crown of mockery
Becomes the hope of new life.

Carrying the Cross

Mark 15:21

He was on a pilgrimage
Come to Jerusalem
For the annual remembrance

Forced to carry the cross for
A man he had no knowledge of
In the wrong place at the wrong time

Why me ? What did I do?
He did not resist these Romans
Relieved Jesus of an earthly burden

Perhaps he was chosen
Because he was not a local
Perhaps he found
His own true Self
Carrying the cross
On the Via Dolorosa

God asks us to carry
Our own cross

To find the way
To our own truth

To accept the pain
Of our darkest moments

To bear the burden
And live the joy
Of the wholeness
Of Christ in us

They Know Not

Luke 23:34

Father forgive them
For they know not what they do

Those who crucified Jesus
Thought they knew what they did
Silencing the word
Removing a thorn from their side

It is the thorns in our side
Who lead us to question
Who challenge our knows

Would we know the Christ
If they had not tried
To silence the Word

We can be led
To the truth
By those who
Know not what they do





Forsaken

Mark 15:34

The cry of a man seemingly
Separated from God
Abandoned by God
Left to suffer the
Wounds of Godless fate

The humanity of Jesus
Son of God
Echoes in the words of despair
Uttered in desperation
In pain and suffering

We too feel abandoned by God
In times when our pain
Encloses us in a world
That seems too small for God

How can we hear God
In the time of despair
When pain consumes us
When fear fills us

Temptation

Luke 23:34

They challenge Jesus
To save himself
To prove his power

A temptation he faced
In the desert
Years ago

He had promised the Father
He would accept the cup
He was given

On the cross
He drank from that cup
And gave us life

Remember Me

Luke 23:42

*Jesus remember me
When you come into your kingdom*

*The prayer of a sinner
Condemned by the world*

*Honest assessment
Of what he had done*

*Confession of faith to one
Under the same sentence*

*Granted forgiveness
By the Son of God*

*We too are forgiven
By the crucified Christ*

*We too are forgiven
By the God who became flesh*

*We too are forgiven
By God the Spirit*

Centurion

Mark 15:37-39

He had done his duty
At many of these executions
It had become routine

Two thieves and a rabble rouser

Nothing special except
The words the man cried
Just before his life ended

This crowd seems larger
Some of them grieving
In quiet desperation

At the time of death
His world seems to shake
Darkness descends

Is the dark and the shaking
In the world
Or only in his heart

His eyes opened
Like those of the disciples
Who watch with him

Understanding flows through him
Sweeping away preconceptions
And he cries out fateful words

Truly this man was the Son of God

Do we dare cry out
Truly this man is the Son of God

Women's Work

Mark 15:40

The women watched from afar
As their Lord
Was crucified, died and was buried

One had responded
To the angelic apparition
Be it unto me according to thy word

One recognized the God bearer
When the prophet she bore
Leaped in her womb

One told the men in her village
About the man who promised
Water that they might never thirst

One opened Jesus' mind
With a parable about crumbs

One sought healing in faith
Risking wrath and rejection

One christened Jesus
With abundant ointment

One ran to share the good news
Telling of the risen Christ

The women watched from afar
Followers, nurturers, disciples
Their ministry crucial to the Gospel

Courage, devotion, insight
Key ingredients in
Enlarging and spreading the Word



Taking Care of the Body

Matthew 27:59

Joseph is a stranger
From an unknown town
When did he become a disciple

He went to Pilate
And asked for the
Body of Christ

What did he risk
By confessing
His loyalty to the
Son of God

Wrapped the body
Of his Savior
In fair linen
And laid it in his tomb

A special gift
And ritual act of
Deep devotion

So we place the
Body of Christ
Bread of Heaven
On fair linen
On the altar

Remembering the
Death and resurrection
Of Jesus, our savior

Re-mem-bering the body of Christ

First Easter

John 20:1-18

Early in the morning
She came to the place
Knowing where he lay
She had watched with the other women

Horrified by the events
Full of grief
Emptied by the loss

The man who had gifted her with healing
Dispatching with a word and a gesture
The seven devils that had plagued her
Giving her new life

A miracle
The power of God
A power she had not thought possible

She had followed him
Been a part of his cadre
Supported him on his travels

And now he had been crucified
For the very deeds and power
That had healed her

She comes now to minister to him
Not as he had ministered to her
But in the only way she could

The tomb is empty
She is unable to perform even the ritual act
Of ministering to his body.
Her loss is complete.

Weeping outside the tomb
Would the devils he had dispatched
Return to plague her again



Angels ask her why she weeps
"They have taken away my Lord
I know not where to find him"

Another voice asks her why she weeps
How could she not weep
They have taken away my Lord

"Mary"

He calls her name
And recognition comes
Joy overcomes grief and disbelief

"Rabboni"

She looks up in belief
She moves to touch him
To make contact

Do not cling to me.
I have not yet ascended to my Father
Another mystery

Understanding comes
The Spirit fills her
Her life will never be the same

Weeping with joy
She runs to tell the others
To start sharing the Word

Christ is risen
Christ is calling your name
Your lives will never be the same

Holy Places

John 20:17

As the Gospel is read
I recall visiting the place
Where the story is set

His Mother's home town
River of baptism
Inland sea of miracles
Upper room furnished for supper
Garden of gnarled olive trees
Courtyard of rough stone paving
Narrow street of sadness

We face the danger of identifying
The spiritual experience
With the physical place

The limiting nature of confusing
The temporal moment with the
Everlasting life

The worldly name with the
Heavenly hope

Jesus said "Do not cling to me"
So must we release our hold
On the places where we found
Spiritual nourishment and everlasting life

And look for the place
Where heaven and earth meet
Wherever we are

And invite everyone
Of every faith
To find their God
In those places we hold holy

Emmaus

Luke 24:1-31

Two disciples
Walking to Emmaus

Puzzling over
What had happened
What they had witnessed

The strange stories
The women had told
The mysteries of recent days

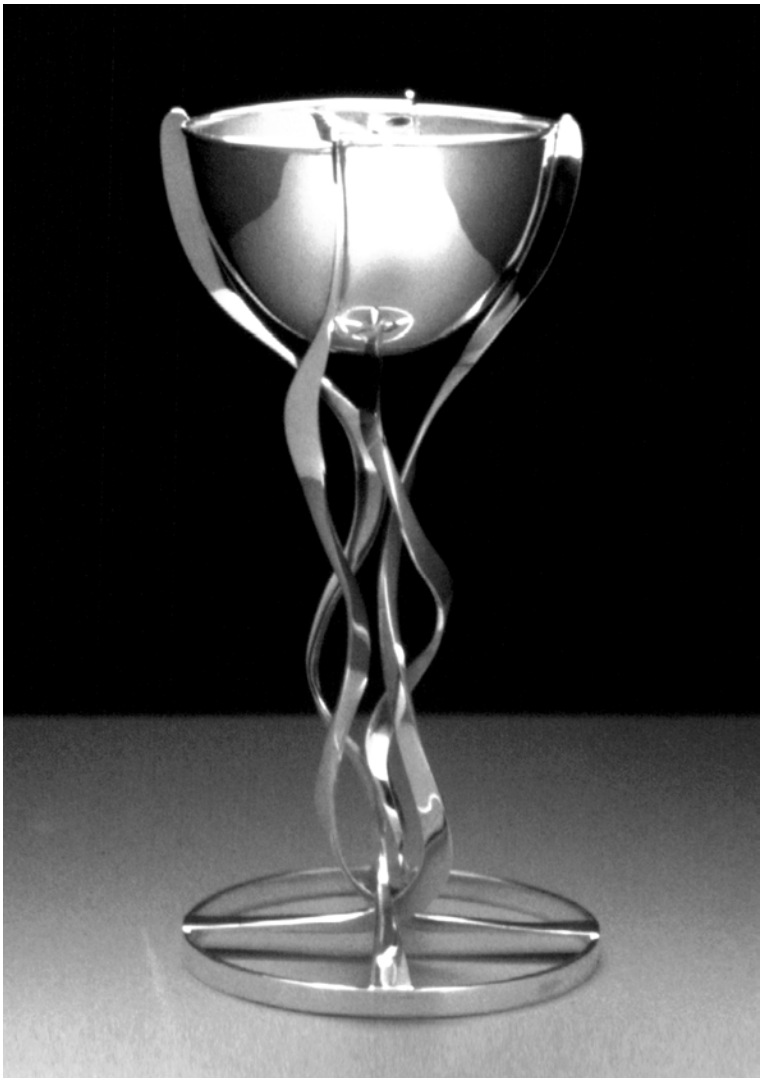
A stranger joined them
As they walked
He taught them
They did not know him

Invited to dinner
The stranger
As if he were Host

Took bread
Blessed it
Broke it
Gave it

Eyes opened
Mystery revealed
Insight

Christ is risen
God with us
Immanuel



Psalm

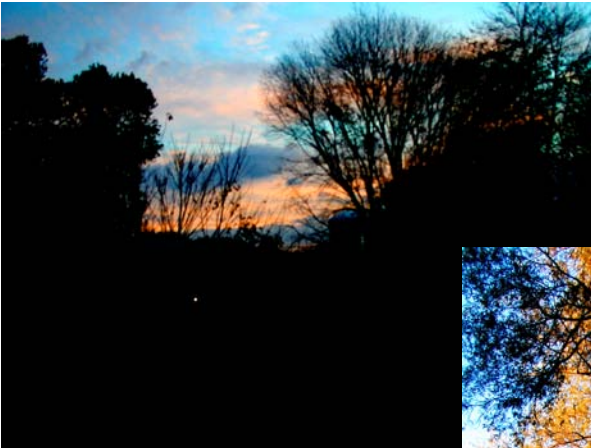
*O Gracious God: creator of the universe
Guide us in our journey in your world*

*O Gracious God: companion in suffering
Comfort us in our afflictions*

*O Gracious God: source of all inspiration
Fill us with your creative energy*

*O Gracious God: fount of all wisdom
Help us to live in the way of truth and
compassion*

*O Gracious God: otherworldly presence
Grant us your restless peace*



Advent

As the earth turns towards the sun
The early morning light
Colors the gray green bark
Of the big oak trees
With patches of orange

New fire
Heralding the coming
Of a new day

We anticipate the coming of the Son
The turning of the world
And our hearts and minds
To the spirit of God

With the hope of new day dawning



Adrian's Creed

God is; God is becoming

God the Creator

*immanent in each part of creation
transcendent across creation.*

God the Spirit

*source of virgin birth
inspiring life and all creation
manifest in our imaginings.*

God the Christ

*present and revealed in the life of Jesus
incarnate that God might become human
sacrificed by God on the cross for God's
transformation
that we may indivinate.*

God merciful, gracious and challenging

*accepting of our brokenness
redeemer of all who confess to being lost
offering new life to those who seek it*

God present in our lives

*even when we turn our back
approached in our worship and rituals
listening to us in prayer
responding in mysterious ways*

Christ resurrected

*in our hearts and minds
in the body of the church
in the community of confessors*

I endeavor to know God

*recognizing that names and descriptions serve
to explain and confuse
to limit and deepen comprehension.
God knowable and unknowable,
beyond description, yet we seek to describe.*

*God hidden and made manifest
in our darkest desires and our highest creations,
in our joy and our sorrow,
in our fear and our courage,
in our confidence and our anxiety,
in our hate and our love.
in the myths, metaphors, images, stories
traditions and rituals of the world's people.*

*I hear God calling me to make the Quest
to seek out who I really am intended to be
to live that intended life in full abundance.*

*God calls me to
live life in a never ending search to know God
yet knowing that God is present in the search;
bring forth the inspirations of the spirit
minister by sharing the gifts of God with others;
worship in the liturgies of the church*

*I know God as the force that shapes my life
the center towards which I strive.*

*I experience God as the power,
welcome and unwelcome,
that works in the world and in me
to bring me closer to the divine
and as that on which I work
to bring into the world*

I am; I am becoming

Nicene Creed: A Personal Translation

(Book of Common Prayer, page 358)

God is:

Transcendent creator of heaven and earth;
of all that is, seen and unseen.

Revealed Incarnate in Jesus, the Christ
Begotten Heir of the Transcendent God
God from God, Light from Light
True God from True God
With the power of the Spirit
Incarnate through virgin birth
Born of Mary, God Bearer
Made human, baptized, tempted
Healer, teacher, miracle worker, prophet
Crucified, dead and buried
Absent in death
Resurrected on the third day
Present with God Transcendent
Present in our lives
Embodied in God's people
Returning in full glory to the whole world
as the living Christ

God Immanent,
Holy Spirit
Enlivener of life
Worshipped and glorified with God
Speaking through all Prophets
Granting forgiveness and acceptance
in baptism and confession
Inspiring each to a new life
Promising life eternal.

Amen

Names of God

Exodus 3:14

Christians pray
Invoking three names
Three persons, one God

Jews are not permitted to
Utter the name of G_d

Muslims recite ninety nine
Names for God
And say that is not all

God said to Moses
"I am who I am"
"Tell them 'He who is' sent you"

Names are nouns
Define and constrict

God is a verb

Prayer



A friend said
You pray with your hands

A simple statement
Declared with confidence
A surprising truth

Prayer is the art of
Listening to God
So that
The Word of God
May be made manifest

The artist's hands
Are God's handmaiden
Manifesting the word of God

Mary prayed with her body
Gave birth to Jesus
Incarnation of God's word

So we pray with our own lives
As we do God's work
Manifesting God's word

Inspiration

*God speaks
The Spirit moves*

*Something yearns to be
brought forth
made manifest
given life
nurtured*

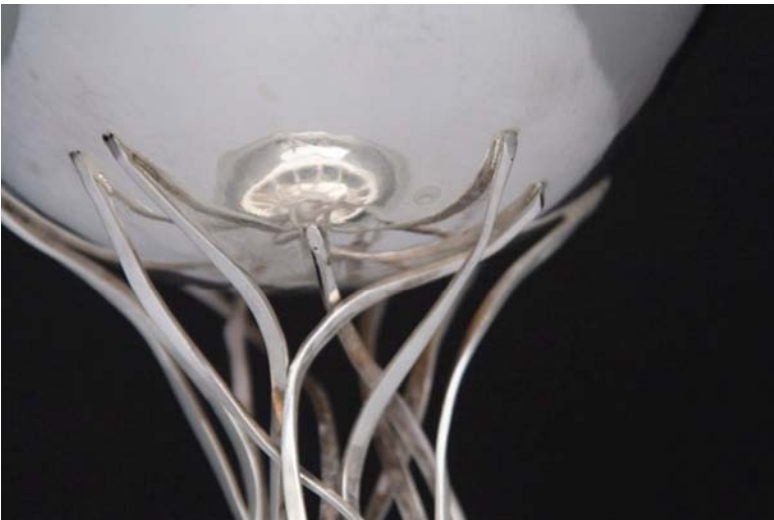
Words may not be enough

*An image
Sometimes emerges*

*Something that can be touched,
That casts shadows,
That reflects
That changes depending on one's
Point of view
May be the right expression.*

Words can do all that too

The form makes itself known





Pruning

The vines grow full
In the bright sunlight
Leaves transforming energy
For the new growth

Beneath the fruit swells
With thirst quenching sweetness

Destined to fill
The Cup of Salvation

Destined to refresh
The Body of Christ

The new growth sprouts
From gnarled old stems
Grafted on to roots
Deeply connected to
Nurturing ground

Hidden from view
By the lush fruitfulness
The scars on the stems
Mark the wounds inflicted
As the growth of the vine
Was shepherded by the gardener

At the moment of pruning
The wounds cut deep

The scars will remain
Forever shaping
The vine's new life

Trinity

*God: Father, Son and Holy Ghost
One God three natures
Three persons one substance*

*One God
How could there be more
Three experiences
How could there be less*

*How we struggle
To convey the reality
Of the entity we know
Of our experience of God*

*Transcendent, Incarnate, Immanent
Forebear, Human, Spirit
Initiator, Reconciler, Energizer*

*Images, words, metaphors
Wondering creativity
Yet still we fail
After all this time
To describe the
Awe full mystery of God*

*So we resort to
An incomprehensible formula
That makes perfect sense*

*God the Father: Creator
God the Son: Savior
God the Holy Spirit: Enlivener*

Quaternity

For a thousand years
Christians have argued
About the word
Filioque - 'And the Son'
In the Nicene creed

Puzzling over the source
Of the Holy Spirit

Perhaps in part because
We confuse God with
The one person of the Trinity
Traditionally named Father

Yet the puzzle is deeper
Where are
Fecundity and nurturing
Tenderness and beauty
Understanding and wholeness
Playfulness and connection
She is Holy Wisdom, Hagia Sophia,

The Creator proceeds from God
The Christ proceeds from God
The Spirit proceeds from God
Holy Wisdom proceeds from God



The Old Oak Tree

The spreading branches
Of the ancient oak
Sheltered the
Weathered stone altar

The table on which
Bread and wine
Were placed
Blessed
Broken
Poured out

Transformed

In the shelter of the oak
The body of Christ
Fed each other
The Body of Christ
Shared the Cup of Salvation

The oak is gone now
Felled by a hurricane

Resurrected
It has found its place
Upon the altar
Holding the body of Christ
Part of the cup of salvation

Lifted by the priest
In celebration
"The gifts of God
For the people of God"



Christian Contemplation

The chapel is cool and dark
Beneath the brightly lit sanctuary

Inviting people of God
Into quiet contemplation
Opening hearts and minds
To the presence of God
The surprise of God

The bustle of preparations
In the sanctuary above
Mirrors the noise
Of thoughts in my mind

I offer the thoughts to God
Return to contemplation
Quieting my brain
Mindful of the word God gave to me
The first time I ventured into the silence

Quiet

All too soon the thoughts return
Reflecting the bustle
In the sanctuary above

God is there too
Sometimes overlooked in the
preoccupation
Of making the place just right for worship

Until we bring ourselves back
to be open to the presence of God
to experience the surprise of God
A vision of a new aspect of God
Unseen previously
Or forgotten

A new inspiration
To carry us forward in life.

Mystery of Faith

Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again

A three phrase proclamation
From the heart of the Eucharist

A 20th century affirmation
Of all that the priest has prayed
A summary of the Christian creed
The bare essentials

Jesus died on the cross
Mary and the other disciples
Met the risen Christ
Arose from despair
Found new life
Before he ascended to heaven

Baptized with the power of the spirit
Freed from the letter of the law
The Apostles began creating
The Body of Christ

Will there be trials and tribulations
In the world before Christ comes again

Will believers be taken to heaven
In an exclusive Rapture.

Is Christ sitting at the right hand of God
Ready to judge the quick and the dead

Does Christ come again
When the world ends

Is life everlasting
After death or on earth

*Christ comes again
Grants life everlasting*

*Christ comes again
Gives us peace*

*Christ comes again to forgive us
As we examine our lives*

*Christ comes again
When we open our hearts
Answer God's call
Go out into the world rejoicing*

Offertory



Fresh from greeting one another
With the ancient words
“The peace of God”

The congregation slowly starts to move
Bringing their offerings
And coming into God’s court
Praising God with their song

Many of them have done this
Many times before
Yet still they hesitate

Afraid they will do the wrong thing
Perhaps nervous about approaching
The holy place
Where God will come

Once scattered among the pews
The people gather now around the altar
A worshipping community

Preparing to invite God into
The bread and the wine
Perhaps ready to invite God
Into their lives

We re-member the body of Christ
In the circle around the altar
Transforming bread into Body
Wine into Spirit

We feed each other
The Bread of Heaven
The Cup of Salvation

And then invite God
To send us out into the world
To do the work God gives us to do

Do we have any idea
What it is we are risking
That we may be called to a whole new life
That our lives may never be the same

We are right to hesitate
As we come into God's court

It is meet and right
To offer our sacrifice of
Praise and thanksgiving

To be open to
New life



Our Father

Dear God

*Help me to say
Not my will
But Thy will*

*Help me to know
Thy will be done
As Christ knows*

*Help me to mean
Thy will be done
As Christ means*

*Help me to live
Thy will be done
As Christ lives*

*Help me to love
Thy will be done
As Christ loves*



The Gifts of God

With open hands
Ready to receive
We wait expectantly

The bread is broken
The body of Christ
A taste of heaven
Offered to us

Consecrated wine
The blood of Christ
Salvation promised
Offered to us

God's spirit
Poured out
The gift of new life
Offered to us

Taken by us
Into the world
Doing the work
God has given us to do.

Listening to the Spirit
Using our gifts
Proclaiming Christ

Thanks be to God

Body of Christ

A circle around the altar
Celebrating Eucharist
Body of Christ

Bread is blessed
Transformed
Body of Christ

Gifts of God
For the people of God
Body of Christ

Broken and shared
Taken and eaten
Body of Christ

Circle completed
Communion
Body of Christ

The Body of Christ

The congregation
Stands in a circle
Around the altar

Bread and wine
Offered to God
Await sanctification

The Priest
In the center of the circle
Recites the ancient formula

God transforms
Worldly matter
Creating holy sustenance

Bread of heaven
Cup of salvation
Inspiration for God's people

Fed by God
Blessed by God
Transforming them

The Body of Christ
Stands in a circle
Around the altar

Cup of Salvation



The hammer beats a rhythm
Shaping the metal
The blows circle round the center
Spiraling out towards the rim
A creative dance
Raising the metal

The metal is torched
Glowing cherry red
Then quenched
Hissing in the water
Tempered and refreshed
Ready for the next dance

The process repeats
Until the cup is shaped
Smoothed
Light sparkling off the
indentations

The stem spirals up
Lifting the cup
Ready to accept
Wine
Blood of Christ

To become the cup of salvation
To refresh and renew
Those who accept the cup
Those who thirst for new life
In Christ

Help me become
A suitable vessel
To receive You
Filled with the Spirit
Nourished by Your love

Refreshed and renewed
Embracing and giving your love
To go into the world
To do the work
You give me to do

Is Easter Ever on Time?

The date for Easter
Is late this year
Last year it was early

It seems that Easter never
Comes just when we expect it
Is Easter ever on time

When is Easter?
When the empty tomb
Speaks to me

When I hear God calling my name
When I find God guiding my thoughts
When I feel God's presence near

When it happens it is so unexpected
Yet familiar and strengthening
Even when life is disrupted

The calendar never predicts
The date the resurrection
Becomes real

Easter comes on time
When we are open
To God's presence
In our lives

The Word of the Lord

Here endeth the lesson

The traditional way
To end the reading

Now the phrase
The word of the Lord
Has become the norm

Were the words we heard
Literally the word
Of God?

Or were they intended
To give us insight
To discover

The WORD of God



The Pray-ers

A mother dying
At the moment
Her daughter comes into life

A family wracked with grief
Their daughter/wife/mother
Dead by her own hand

A devastating accident
Violent interruption
In life's journey

Cancer spreading
Like wild fire
Consuming life

Seemingly helpless
Unable to reach out and touch
Those who suffer
Whose stories we hear

We can only
Be with God
Hold their stories in our hearts
Let them echo in our minds
Be touched by them

Having faith
That in some mysterious way
Our prayers help those who suffer
That they are comforted
Sensing God's presence

And sometimes we
Hear a baby is thriving
See a smile on one who was grieving
Hear the victim has returned home
Discover the cancer's appetite has diminished

We sense God's healing presence

The Holy Land

Canaan
Israel, Judea
Judah, Palestine
Samaria, West Bank

Some of the names
Given to a strip of land
At the eastern edge
Of the Mediterranean sea

The land to which God called
Abraham and Moses
The setting for the biblical prophets
The land where Jesus
Was born, healed and taught
Died and rose again

Too often the setting
For conflict and oppression
For jealousy and revenge

The Promised Land
The Holy Land
Too often identified with particular
Places and peoples

Earth bound
Temporal not eternal
Human not divine

When we listen to God
And place ourselves
Where God wants us to be
Doing what God wants us to do

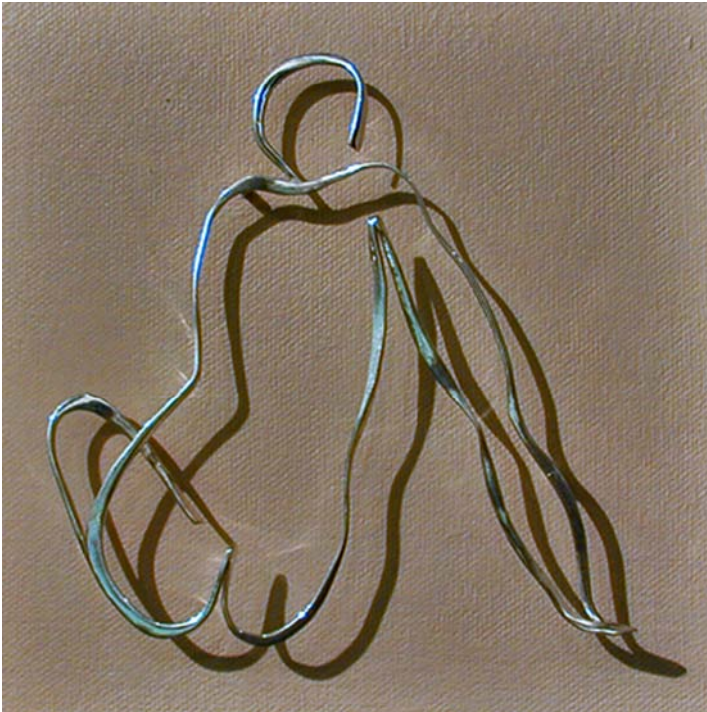
Then we are Chosen People
Living in the Promised Land
The Holy Land

Negative Space

The artist draws
The space around the subject
Calls it negative space

The shape of that space
Contributes positively
To the experience

Of the work
And the subject



Reflection

It is as if there is another world
Beneath the surface of the metal

A world we recognize
Yet different and intriguing

Offering a new perspective
A new view of the familiar

The image seems to lie
Beneath the surface

New depth
In an unexpected place

So can we approach a familiar situation
From a new perspective

So can we look at someone
And see them anew



Shadow



*Light illuminates
The work
Shadows form*

*Sometimes the shadow
Is more illuminating*

Blue Heron

Ungainly on long thin legs
Unable to wade
In the winter pond

Heron watches intently
For a flash of gold
Beneath the ice

Patient and poised
Long neck coiled
Pointed beak cocked

Waiting for the moment
To strike

Will the ice
Spare the fish
Surprise the bird

Or is there an opening
For the weapon
To meet its target

For the bird's
Nourishment

Warm Hand

The walk way across the river
Rises and falls in
Gentle undulations

Above the traffic noise thunders
Below the water swirls
In dark patterns

The children spent the day
On the river bank
Unfamiliar territory
Though they live near by

Learning, seeing
Wondering, feeling

Some of them chattering excitedly
Others a little apprehensive
Are we safe?

The chaperone is in unfamiliar
Territory too
With children he does not know

A warm dark hand finds its way
Into his larger palm
Surprising him

Who is helping whom?
They share a smile
Acknowledging connection

God is here



Riveaulx

The abbey ruins
Shrouded in mist
Can be glimpsed
Up the grassy slope

Once home
To a thriving community
Worshipping people
Center of power
Now silence pervades
The ghostly spaces

Space open to the sky
Where monks chanted their prayers
Walls standing still
Tower over the grassy floor
Where Mass had been celebrated

Until rudely interrupted
Roof taken for bullets
Floors to profit

Reverence remains
In the misty ruins

God is here
They could not chase
God away

White Squirrel

Moving adroitly
On the trunk of the tree
The squirrel is a stark contrast

Pure white against
The gray green bark

An occasional presence
One in a flock that inhabits the yard
This one is easily identified

Does he, or she, know
How unique she, or he, is
That she stands out from the crowd
That her difference makes her special

Do the other squirrels see
That she is different
Do they tease her for it
Or reject her from their community
Or chatter about her

Is she ashamed of the strange gift
God gave her
That makes her so different
Does she yearn to hide it

Or has she found a way
To welcome it as a gift
To thank God for its blessings
Despite the burdens it brings

Has she found a way
To make her life more than
It would be without it



Endings

While I stood and watched
The white squirrel started
Across the road
Ran back and forth
Panicked by the approaching mass

Sickening crunch
Was she just a squirrel

Branches dying on
The tree on whose trunk
She stood out so sharply

Nurturer and playground
Offering shelter from the summer sun
Food for the white squirrel
Perch for the hawk
Prowling for food

Canker infesting the aging being
On whose bark the dawn light
Shone orange and yellow
Proclaiming the coming of the sun

Angry whine of the saw
Severing the limb
Dull thud as it hits the ground

The wood transported to its
Pulverizing destruction

The ground that nourished
And supported those spreading
branches
Scarred by the violent machinery

Memories remain
The work of new life begins

Penland Sunday Morning

Outside the clay studio

Quiet time

Sunlight shining through the trees

Dappled shade

Leaves moving in the breeze

Humming bird at the flowers

Kilns clicking on and off

Transforming by fire the humble clay

Becoming strong and stable

From soft and pliant

Transformed ground

Works of creation

From hands

From God

Sounds of silence



Wren

They built their nest
Under the porch
Up close to the floor above

The mother wren
Or perhaps the father
Flies in

Her babies welcome the arrival
Of their lunch
Their nurturer
With excited chittering

Her babies fed
Mission accomplished
She flies up
To the wire above

And pours out her heart
With a song
Her voice bigger
Than her diminutive frame

Does she know
We are serenaded
Or is she oblivious
To our listening presence

Then flies off
In search of
The next meal

And we
Have been fed too

Gold Finch



Yellow flash in
Thick green foliage
A ray of sunshine
In his striking plumage

Purple flower
Bright yellow bird
Designer color scheme
Complementary colors

The flower stem
Thin green stalk
Bends and sways
But does not break

With the arrival of the bird
Unaccustomed burden
Springing back when the bird takes flight
Offering itself to the next arrival

Life Work

In gratitude to Nancy Witt

How long did it take?

71 years

The artist replies

Mischievously

But in total honesty

Her life so far

The gifts we are given

The choices we make

The life we have lived

The work we have done

The experiences we have had

Form the person we are

The work that we do

The gifts that we give



Born Again Pagan

Milton LeRoy

Collar, stole, alb
The trappings of his life
As a priest are gone

Replaced on this Sunday
With a T-shirt that proclaims

Born again Pagan

Had this man changed so much
That his life
As minister, missionary, teacher
Was forgotten

Christian or Pagan
Anglican, Jungian or Quaker
Labels, creeds and denominations
Could not contain him

He lived the questions
Searching out the truth
Never satisfied with easy answers

A calm and gentle guide
On the path to the Truth
That he was still seeking
At the end of his life

He lived the Quest
Seeking out wholeness
Teaching by word and example
His Ministry lives on

He lives on

After a Period of Drought

The water drops
Down the metal spout
A staccato beat
Welcome moisture

The newly damp earth
Transformed over night
From the dry dust
It had become

The parched plants
Soak up
Welcome refreshment
After the drought

So we soak up
Welcome refreshment
Coming back to God
After a time of separation

Discovering God
Is with us, in us
Even in the dryness
Of apparent separation

After Her Death

He took her ashes back
To where she had last had a life
Before losing her self
In the pain of forgetting

Rain pouring down
As she said it often did
Wind blowing
As she said it always did

He took them to the beach
Where her dog had loved to run
While she watched from the sand hill
He left her there

He took them to the lake
Where she loved to swim
And mess about in boats
With anyone who would join her
He left her there too

He took her to the church yard
Where her aunt lay buried
Amongst the tall dark yews
Where she had looked at wildflowers
Where she struggled to walk
As age depleted her mind

Where she asked to be left
And he left her there too

She wanted things done properly
So the churchyard was right
Despite her questioning
And denial of God

The church was full of flowers
From the feast of the Resurrection
As we remembered her with friends

Epitaph

A tombstone is not desired
Scatter my ashes where you will
I hope and pray
That you may say

Within the limits of his ability
With the gifts he had been blessed
He endeavored
To do the work
God gave him to do

Often, but not always, with grace
Often, but not always, with a smile
He endeavored
To do the work
God gave him to do



About the Author



Adrian Luxmoore lives in Richmond, Virginia with his wife Page. He has a studio where he creates, using the variety of media seen in the works illustrated in these pages. He is an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where his major ministries are as a mentor for the Education for Ministry program, planning and implementing liturgy and helping his wife with her ministry in the Micah mentoring partnership.

More examples of his work can be seen on his web site:
www.luxmooresilver.com

