

Reflection for Christmas Day – 5th advent candle

John 1:14 & 16: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth... Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

At a moment in history, in a place and a time,
An infant's cry in the still night air
Declared salvation's dawn.
His mother lay back exhausted
While her trembling husband laid this fragile child
In an animal's manger.

We light this flame because we believe
That in this moment, it was none other than God
Who took on the flesh of a human infant,
Reaching into the deepest realities of our existence
To become this world's salvation.

Today we will unwrap our gifts
Share food and laughter
Embrace loved-ones and savour memories.
But these things alone can never be enough,
To satisfy our deepest needs and longings.

Like this fragile, flickering flame
They are but precious symbols
Of a deeper and more lasting gift;
The gift of eternity itself
That no earthly circumstance or human hand can ever wrench from us.

We who have seen his glory,
Revealed in the scant chaos of this manger birth,
Offer ourselves afresh in Christ's service,
Content to believe; content to receive,
And called to be those who make Good News known
Wherever the darkness of injustice and ignorance prevails
For nothing else is enough.

**Living Christ, light of the world
On this day we are touched afresh by your glory
Awestruck not by the grandeur of your arrival
But the immensity of its significance.
Your light has come;
Our hopes and longings are fulfilled in you.
Stir our hearts afresh
To live our lives in the light of your coming
That your good news
Might be made know through us**

AMEN