

Strong, sheltering God,
 we bless you for all the
 beautiful things of home;
 warmth and shelter when the
 wind outside is bitter
 food for the body and for the soul
 treasured gifts and treasured memories
 stability, acceptance, care.
 We bless you for the chance to
 be ourselves
 for the tasks that weave the
 pattern of our days
 for the sweet, familiar round
 of ordinary things.
 Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God.

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All that moves on the earth,
 bless your God.
 All that swims in the water,
 bless your God.
 All that flies in the air,
 give glory to God who nurtures us all.
 Parents and children, bless your God.
 Friends and lovers, bless your God.
 Musicians and sports folk,
 give glory to God who nurtures us all.
 Parks and play areas, bless your God.
 Streets and shops, bless your God.
 Homes and gardens,
 give glory to God who nurtures us all.

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Holy, holy, holy,
 Lord God almighty,
 living and reigning
 in the unity of perfect love:
 draw us so to know you,
 to love and follow you,
 that in you we may find fullness of life
 which knows no beginning nor end
 in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 Blessed be God for ever.

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Jesus, like a mother
 you gather your people to you;
 you are gentle with us
 as a mother with her children.
 Despair turns to hope through
 your sweet goodness;
 through your gentleness
 we find comfort in fear.
 Your warmth gives life to the dead,
 your touch makes sinners righteous.
 Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
 in your love and tenderness remake us.
 In your grace and compassion
 bring grace and forgiveness,
 for the beauty of heaven
 may your love prepare us.

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Benefice of Eglwysilan & Caerphilly

*Prayers for
 Simple Joys*



Produced by the Benefice

What a beautiful relief, dear God,
 To sit quietly in my own living room
 Soaking up the luxury of aloneness.
 No demanding voices
 No radio or television
 No shouts from the bathroom
 Just these few marvellous moments
 To kick off my shoes
 Shed my confusion
 And reclaim myself ...
 These few marvellous moments
 To respond to your persistent plea.

© Ruth Harms Calkin



What shall I give you, Lord,
 in return for all your kindness?
 Glory to you for your love.
 Glory to you for your patience.
 Glory to you for forgiving us all our sins.
 Glory to you for coming to
 save our souls.
 Glory to you for your incarnation
 in the Virgin's womb.
 Glory to you for your bonds.
 Glory to you for receiving the
 cut of the lash.
 Glory to you for accepting mockery.
 Glory to you for your crucifixion.
 Glory to you for your burial.
 Glory to you for your resurrection.
 Glory to you that you were
 preached to all.
 Glory to you in whom they believed.

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Name Unnamed,
 whose intriguing presence
 is closer to home than
 we dare to imagine
 fill us with the wonder of you
 that we may be filled with wonder
 of ourselves.

Name Unnamed,
 whose creativity is a river running
 startle us with diversity
 and surprise us with difference
 that we may be filled with wonder
 of others.

Name Unnamed, whose mystery
 and concern is revealed in Jesus
 reshape our perceptions
 reshape our patterns of living
 reshape our politics and prayer
 that we may be filled with the wonder
 of a world made whole.

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As I look out from my cave,
 I can see the wide ocean,
 stretching west, north, and south
 to the ends of the earth.
 I watch the sea birds swoop,
 and I hear them shriek;
 and in my mind I can see the ocean
 depths teeming with fish.
 The earth is both majestic and playful,
 both solemn and joyful;
 in all this it reflects the one who made it.

© Robert Van Der Weyer

O God, make the door of this house
 wide enough to receive all who need
 human love and fellowship,
 and a heavenly Father's care;
 and narrow enough to shut out all
 envy, pride and hate.
 Make its threshold smooth enough
 to be no stumbling block to children or
 straying feet,
 but rugged enough to turn back the
 tempter's power;
 make it a gateway to thine
 eternal kingdom.

© Thomas Ken



God our Father, whose Son
 enjoyed the love of his friends,
 Mary, Martha and Lazarus,
 in learning, argument and hospitality:
 may we so rejoice in your love
 that the world may come to know
 the depths of your wisdom,
 the wonder of your compassion,
 and your power to bring life out of death;
 through the merits of Jesus Christ,
 our friend and brother,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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