



# *Christmastide 2017–2018*

## **Gift of Gifts—A Prayer for Christmastide**

*by The Valley of Vision*

What shall I render to thee for the gift of gifts,  
thine own dear Son, begotten, not created,  
my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute,  
his self-emptying incomprehensible,  
his infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.

Herein is wonder of wonders:

he came below to raise me above,  
was born like me that I might become like him.

Herein is love;

when I cannot rise to him he draws near on  
wings of grace,  
to raise me to himself.

Herein is power;

when Deity and humanity were infinitely  
apart  
he united them in indissoluble unity,  
the uncreated and the created.

Herein is wisdom;

when I was undone, with no will to return  
to him,

and no intellect to devise recovery,  
he came, God-incarnate, to save me  
to the uttermost,

as man to die my death,  
to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,  
to work out a perfect righteousness for me.

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful  
shepherds,

and enlarge my mind;

let me hear good tidings of great joy,  
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,  
my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,  
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;

place me with ox, ass, camel, goat,  
to look with them upon my Redeemer's face,  
and in him account myself delivered from  
sin;

let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child  
to my heart,

embrace him with undying faith,  
exulting that he is mine and I am his.

In him thou hast given me so much  
that heaven can give no more.

## ***The Christian Year***