

December 19th



My soul Gives You glory Lord.

With Christmas fast approaching we are shown the surprising nature of God's wisdom. The wisdom of God in the child born to a young woman in an unimportant town, in a weak nation with corrupt leaders. God's response to the predicament of the world then, now and always is JESUS.

The state of the world can get us down. We long for God to intervene and inspire clear thinking in the minds of all who make important decisions that affect the lives of billions, especially the poor. We want them to be wise.

Of ourselves we may ask; has/is our Advent prayer/ silence making us more aware of the needs around us, more questioning of the structures, more open to responding freely to the needs we see, to building more loving relationships, more generous not with things but with the gift of self, for the good of others.

Maybe we can spend the remaining precious time of Advent that is left being more intensely drawn to Mary in her waiting and pondering the birth of the great Morning Star, Jesus Christ the Lord. We can seek her intercession, looking to her example of how to welcome the overshadowing Spirit of God. As Mary said yes to the Spirit I can trust her to lead me to my own YES.

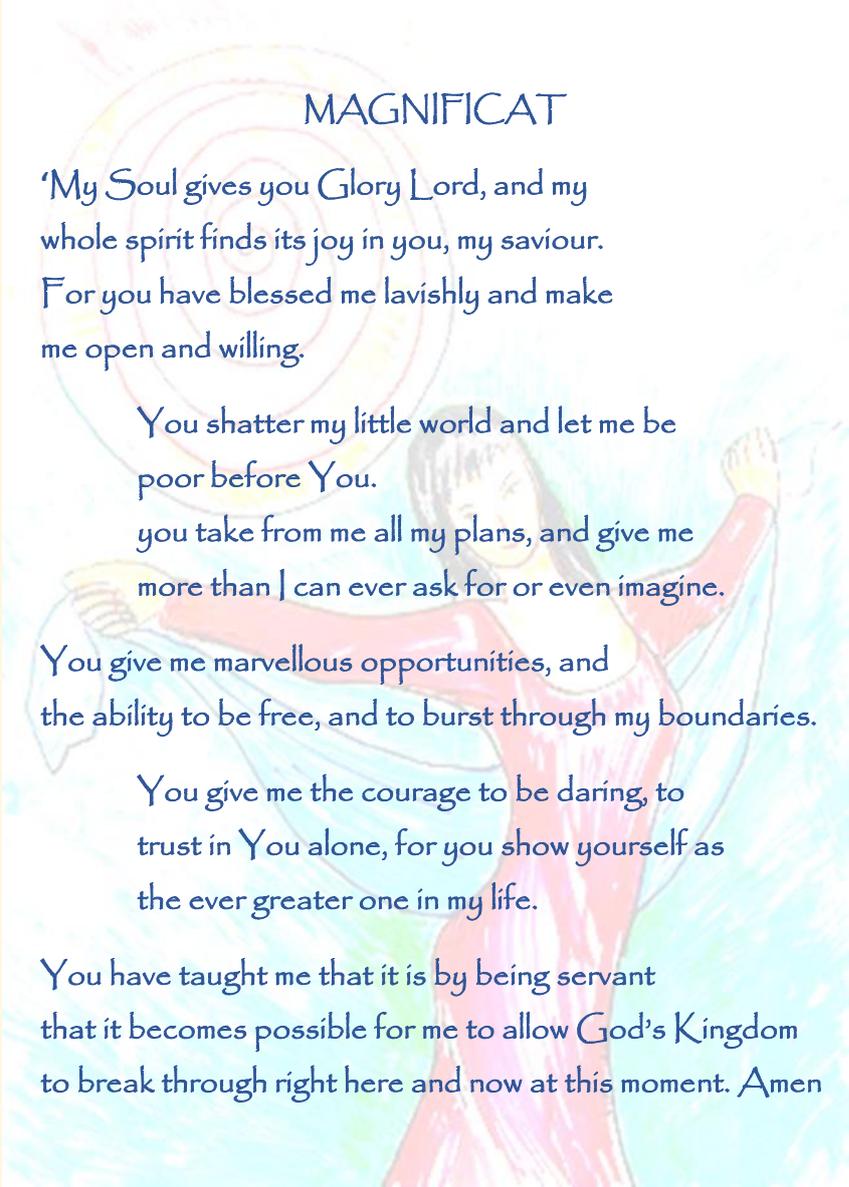
In prayer and praise we try to quell, if not drown out the commercial messages and pressures surrounding us. The distractions surrounding us can quickly and subconsciously occupy our thinking. Will our world be better this Christmas? Will there be fewer people who are proud and more people who are humble? Will the hunger of many around the world be satisfied? Will we really care to respond to the needs of the oppressed and the marginalised? About ourselves we wonder how, after all the graces of Advent we can still be so faulty and faltering? Prayer can be full of questions. "the important thing is not to stop questioning, curiosity has its own reason for existing". (Albert Einstein)

Mary's Magnificat is a strong statement of hope for those who are overwhelmed with reasons to give up and lose hope. Mary offered herself totally and undividedly to God's plan. Her generosity was such that she

allowed God to make her the best instrument for the coming of His kingdom on earth. Her dream embraced the whole of humanity through history.

As a woman of faith Mary had the courage to dream of a new world especially for the poor and marginalised. She firmly believed that God will bring His Kingdom to fulfilment among us. The reign of the proud, the ruthless and the mighty will finally come to an end.

Our world will change for the better if we can accept with humility and commitment God's Word, who desires to make His dwelling among us. Our lives will be very different if we can put God's plan over and above our own and follow it even at the expense of our own short-sighted dreams and visions.



MAGNIFICAT

'My Soul gives you Glory Lord, and my whole spirit finds its joy in you, my saviour. For you have blessed me lavishly and make me open and willing.

You shatter my little world and let me be poor before You.

you take from me all my plans, and give me more than I can ever ask for or even imagine.

You give me marvellous opportunities, and the ability to be free, and to burst through my boundaries.

You give me the courage to be daring, to trust in You alone, for you show yourself as the ever greater one in my life.

You have taught me that it is by being servant that it becomes possible for me to allow God's Kingdom to break through right here and now at this moment. Amen