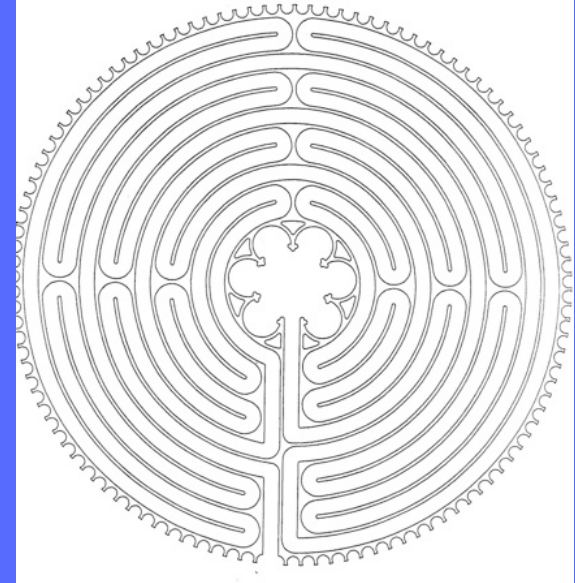


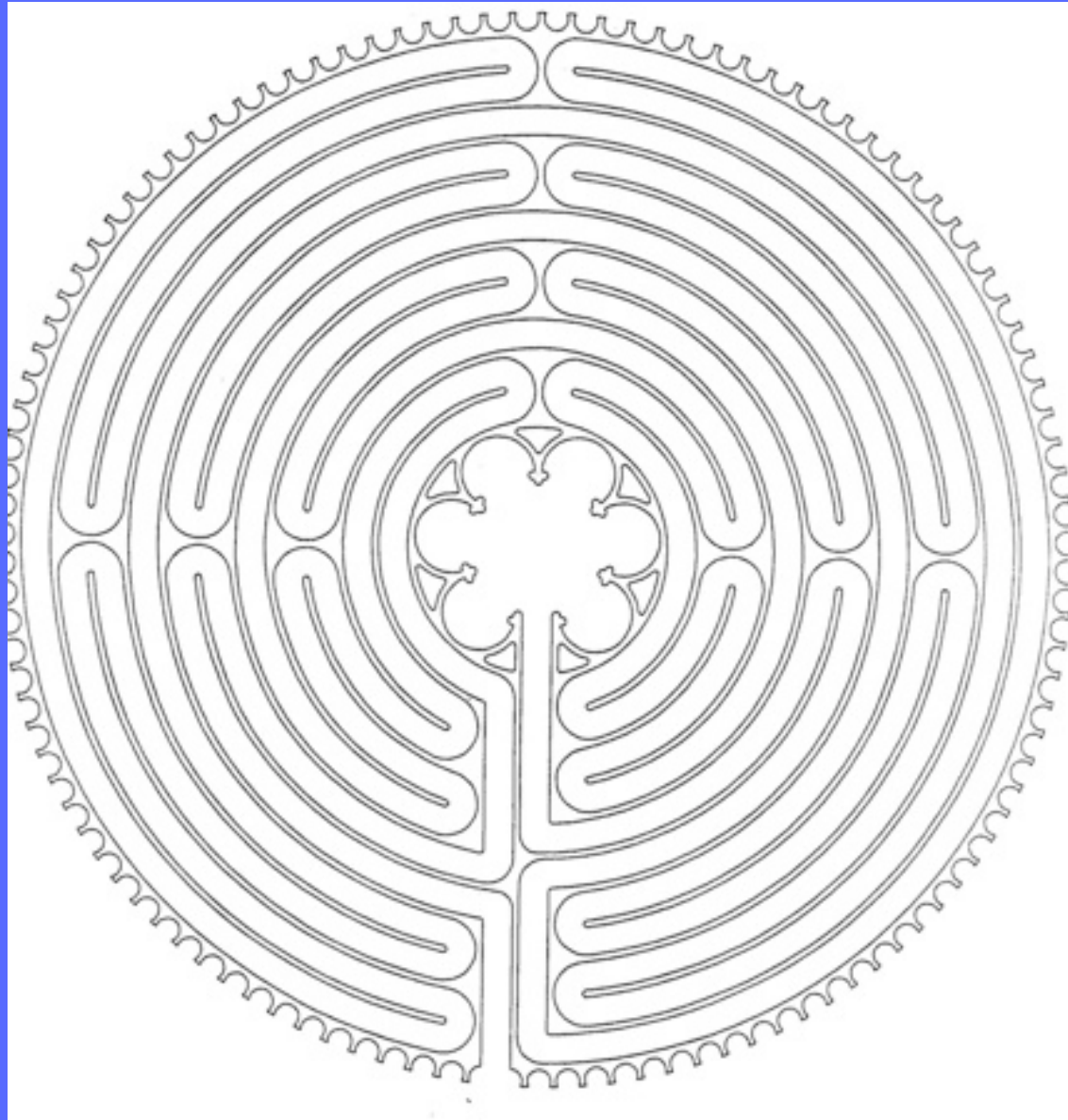
# Evening of Advent Prayer on the Labyrinth: Echoes from the Chartres Cathedral



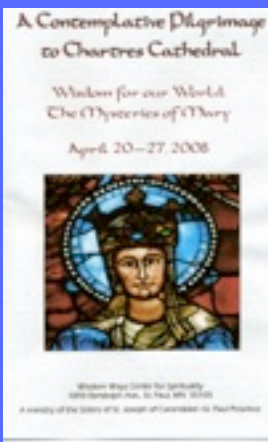
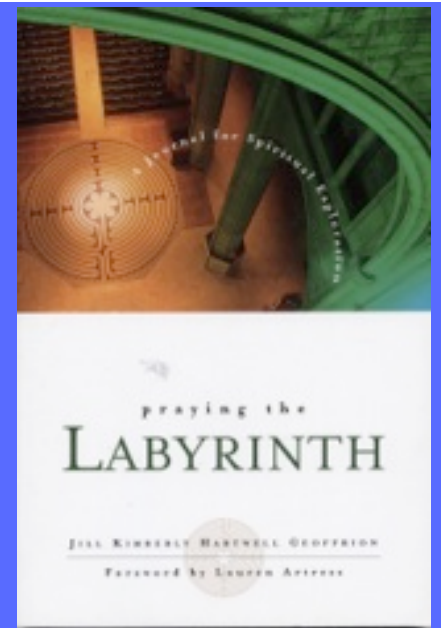
Wisdom Ways Center for  
Spirituality  
December 11, 2007

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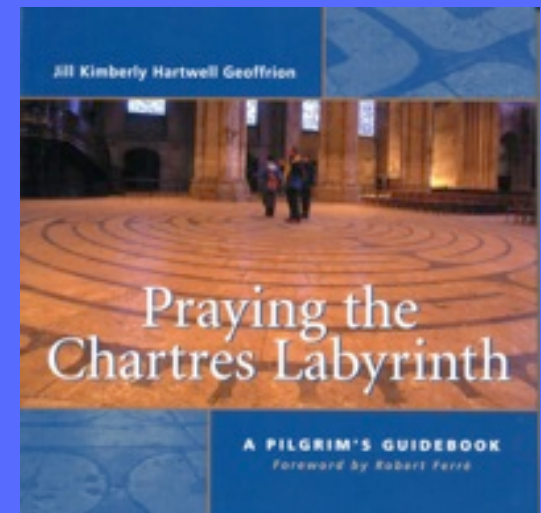
Prayer at the beginning...



Why am I here?



I have a deep respect for the many ways in which the Chartres labyrinth can be used to enrich one's faith.



Advent is a season of “coming”, of preparation for birth: birth of a Savior, birth of a new reality at the end of time...



Chartres is a cathedral of birth...which includes a relic, the “cloth that Mary wore during the annunciation or Christ’s birth.”



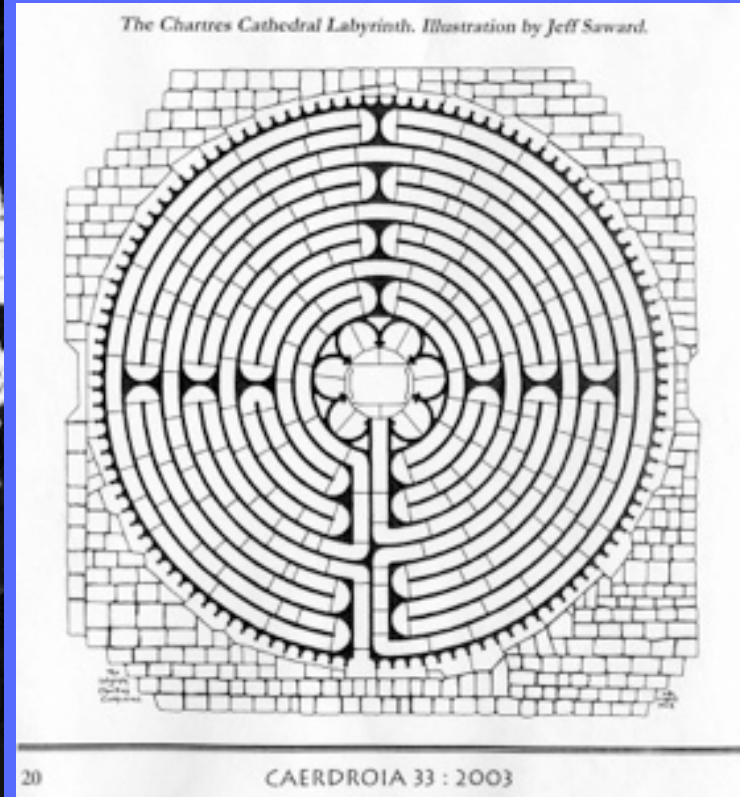
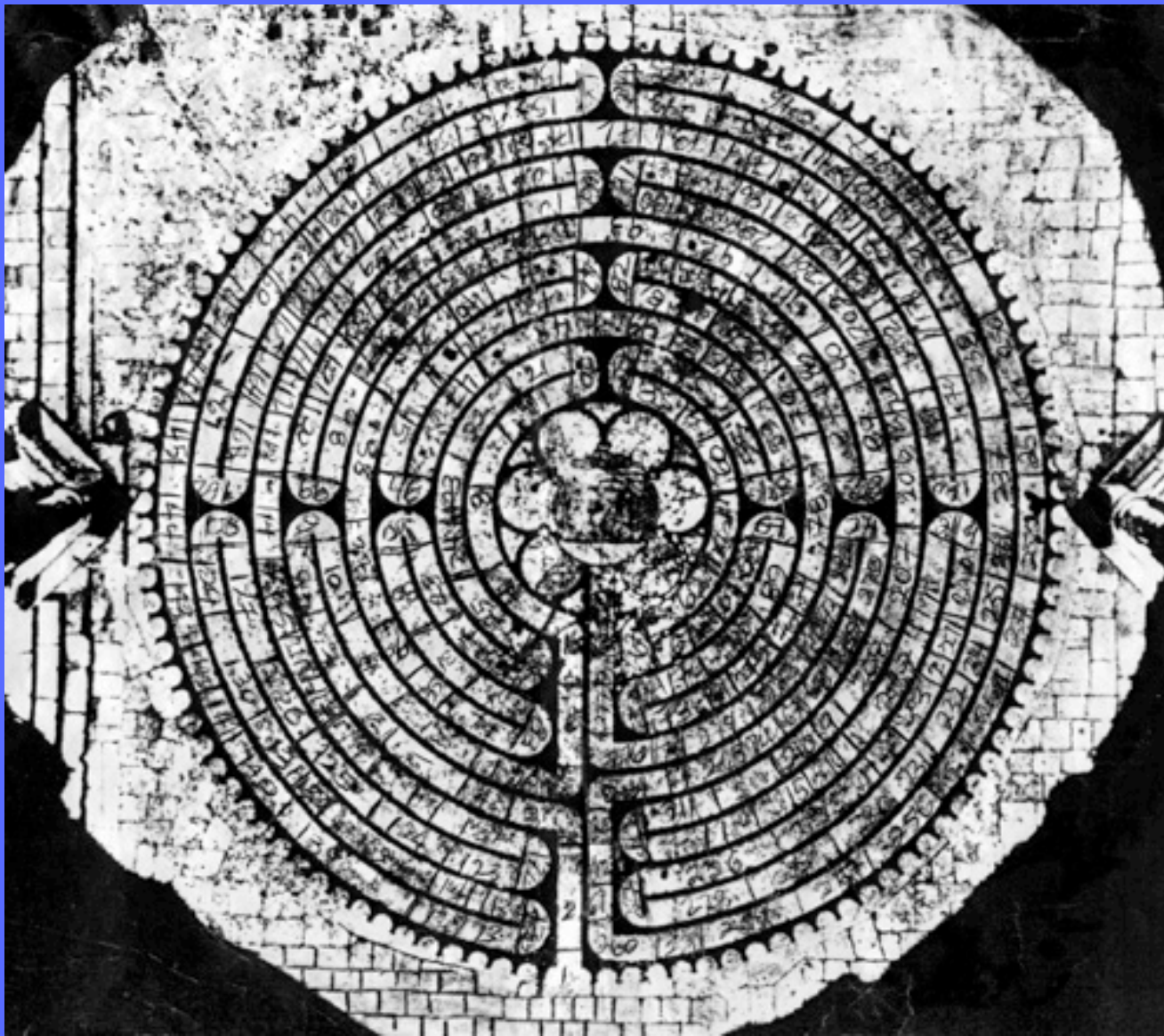
Chartres Cathedral  
was built to be a model  
for the New Jerusalem  
that would come down  
out of heaven at the  
end of time.

Revelation 21:1-8 (see 3:12)

At Chartres Cathedral, Christ is often depicted as the  
Judge at the end of time.

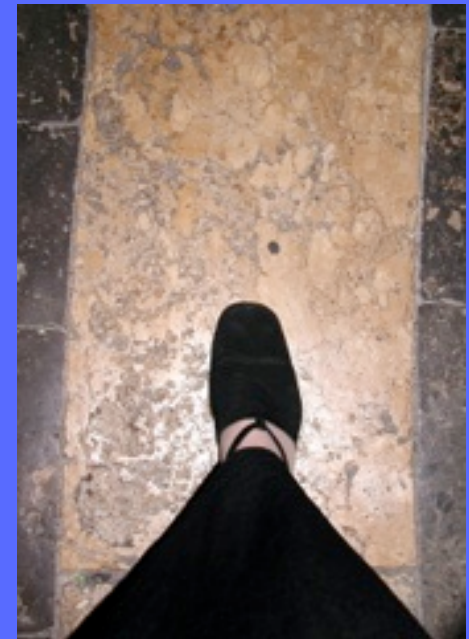
South & West rose windows & tympanums





The labyrinth is thought to have many connections to birth, including perhaps to the numbers of days of a baby's gestation.  
(272=276)

Advent is a time that involves the interplay of dark and light...



...as does the Chartres Cathedral,  
and its labyrinth.



# Advent Stories & Labyrinth Experience

## The Annunciation







## The Annunciation in Luke 1:

...the angel Gabriel  
was sent by God  
to a town in Galilee  
called Nazareth...

The Annunciation: Gabriel, North Porch, Chartres Cathedral

*..to a virgin  
engaged to a man  
whose name was Joseph,  
of the house of David.  
The virgin's name was Mary.  
And he came to her and said,  
"Greetings, favored one!  
The Lord is with you."*

*The Annunciation:  
West Porch, Mary Tympanum, Chartres Cathedral*





But she was  
much perplexed  
by his words  
and pondered  
what sort  
of greeting  
this might be.

*The Annunciation: West Wall,  
Life of Christ Window, Chartres Cathedral*



*The Annunciation: Gabriel & Mary, North Porch, East Bay, Chartres Cathedral*

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."



Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

*The Annunciation: South Ambulatory, Otherwise Grisaille Window, Chartres Cathedral*



The angel said to her,  
“The Holy Spirit will come upon  
you, and the power of the Most  
High will overshadow you;  
therefore the child to be born  
will be holy;  
he will be called Son of God.  
And now, your relative Elizabeth  
in her old age has also conceived  
a son; and this is the sixth month  
for her who was said to be barren.  
For nothing will be impossible with  
God.”

The Annunciation: Upper Central Eastern Window,  
Chartres Cathedral



Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her. Luke 1:26-38

*The Annunciation: South Ambulatory, Life of Mary Window, Chartres Cathedral*

*In response to the images and words you have just experienced,  
what is stirring inside?*



*Chartres Cathedral labyrinth, looking from the north ambulatory.*

*If you would like, turn to a person near to you and each take one minute to share.  
If you would prefer, sit quietly by yourself and consider this.*



Walk the labyrinth considering prayerfully,  
“What strange thing might God be announcing to and/or asking of me?”

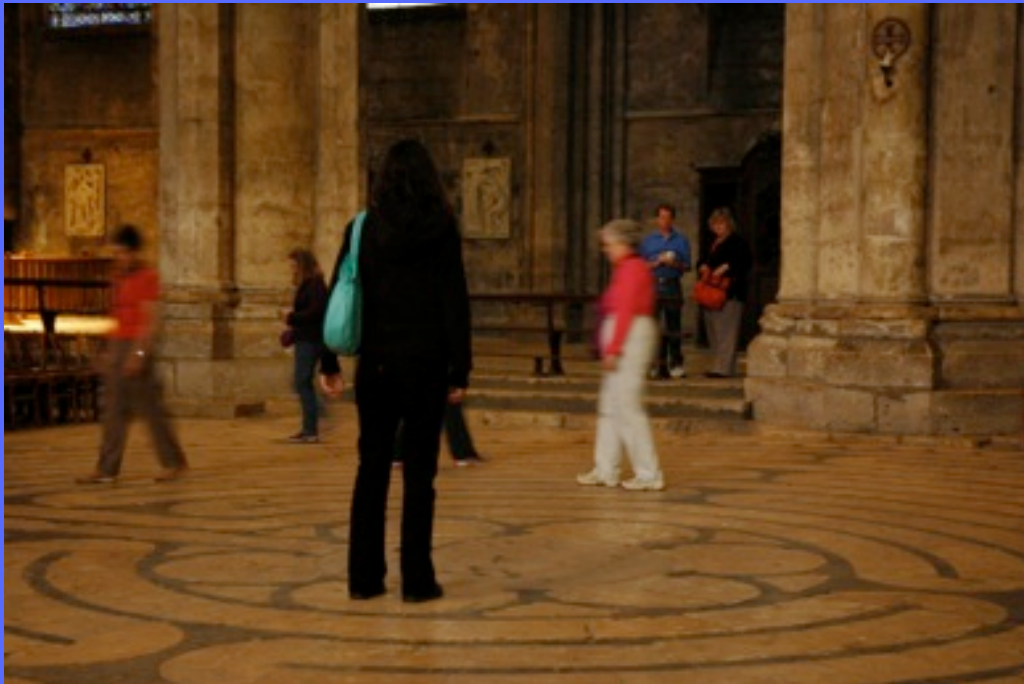


Annunciation Details, Chartres Cathedral

Is there anything we would like to share with one another from our labyrinth experiences?



The Annunciation, Chartres Cathedral Choir  
The Chartres Labyrinth



# Advent Stories & Labyrinth Experience

## The Longing for the Reign of God



"The labyrinth is one of the oldest of symbols; it depicts the way to the unknown center, the mystery of death and rebirth, the risk of the search, the danger of losing the way, the quest, the finding and the ability to return. If we follow the path of the labyrinth from the floor of Chartres Cathedral we can observe that in the course of its tortuous evolution it not only connects the periphery with the center...but actually fills out and covers the total plane surface of the circle; in striving for the center the path integrates the total circle, the total field." 306/307.

Whitmonth, Edward C (1969), 'Therapy' in *The Symbolic Quest* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press): 291/310.

The Advent reality of longing for the reign of Christ:  
echoes from the Chartres Cathedral



Lava labyrinth in Goma, D. R. of Congo 2007.

Take five minutes  
to pray in response  
to the stories of the  
Chartres-style  
labyrinth in Goma,  
Congo.

If it would be  
helpful, use the  
paper pattern of  
this labyrinth to  
deepen your prayer.

Follow your own  
prayer,  
or ask,  
“How can I bring  
God’s love where it  
is needed?”



# Advent Stories & Labyrinth Experience

## The Visitation



Visitation, Life of Christ Window



In those days Mary set out  
and went with haste  
to a Judean town  
in the hill country,  
where she entered  
the house of Zechariah and  
greeted Elizabeth.

The Visitation: West Wall,  
Mary Tympanum (South), Chartres Cathedral



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? for as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." The Visitation: Outer Choir Sculptures, Chartres Cath.





And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. The Visitation: South Ambulatory, Life of Mary Window, Chartres Cathedral



God's mercy is for those  
who fear God from  
generation to generation.  
God has shown strength  
with God's arm;  
God has scattered the proud  
in the thoughts  
of their hearts.  
God has brought down the  
powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
God has filled the hungry  
with good things,  
and sent the rich away  
empty.

The Visitation: North Porch, East Bay, Chartres Cathedral

He has helped his servant  
Israel,  
in remembrance  
of his mercy, according to  
the promise he made to  
our ancestors,  
to Abraham and  
to his descendants  
forever.”

The Visitation: Upper East Central Window,  
Chartres Cathedral



And Mary  
remained  
with her  
about  
three months  
and then  
returned  
to her home.

The Visitation:  
Life of Christ Window,  
West Wall,  
Chartres Cathedral



Walk around the labyrinth (one or more times) in honor of Mary's journey to Elizabeth.



When you are ready, enter the labyrinth  
with the question,  
“Who do I need to seek out  
so that I can be more ready to do what God is asking of me?”

Use the labyrinth to prayerfully explore the meanings of the images and words of the Visitation story.



Threshold and pathway, Chartres Labyrinth

*In the circle, one by one, let us make a simple gesture  
that expresses where each of us is in our journey right now.  
If you prefer not to share a personal gesture,  
cross your arms across your chest,  
holding your experience close to yourself.*



In the circle, one by one, let us make a simple gesture  
that expresses where each of us is in our journey right now.  
If you prefer not to share a personal gesture,  
cross your arms across your chest,  
holding your experience close to yourself.





# Advent Stories & Labyrinth Experience

## Closing Prayer: The Journey Towards Bethlehem

Lord, I will trust you,  
help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries, can I trust You  
to be stronger than each storm in me?

Do I still yearn for Your glory  
to lighten on me?

I will show others the care  
You've given me.

I determine amidst all uncertainty  
always to trust.

I choose to live beyond regret,  
and let You recreate my life.

I believe You will make a way for me  
and provide for me,  
if only I trust You  
and obey.



I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times are still in Your hand.

I will believe You for my future,  
chapter by chapter,  
until all the story is written.

Focus my mind and my heart upon You,  
my attention always on You without  
alteration.

Strengthen me with Your blessings  
and appoint to me the task.

Teach me to live with eternity in view.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven.

Feed me,  
and, somehow,  
make my obedience count for You.

Brendan, in [Celtic Daily Prayers from the Northumbria Community](#) Harper 2002.



feel free to contact Jill with your thoughts and questions.

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