

NOT THAT FAR FROM BETHLEHEM

Underneath the stars just a simple man and wife
somewhere in the dark his words cut the silent night
Take my hand, for the child that you carry is God's own
and though it seems the road is long

We're not that far from Bethlehem
Where all our hope and joy began
For in our arms, we'll cherish Him
We're not far, from Bethlehem

Let us celebrate as the Christmas's go by
Learn to live our days with our hearts near to the child
Ever drawn, ever close to the only love that lasts
And though 2000 years have past

We're not that far from Bethlehem
Where all our hope and joy began
For when our hearts still cherish Him
We're not far
We're not that far from Bethlehem
Where all our hope and joy began
For when our hearts still cherish Him
We're not far. We're not that far from Bethlehem

youtube Firefly feat. Sing and Shout Children's Choir

Prayer Leader:

Ron Konkoly

12 / 27 / 2022

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Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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An Interfaith Ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

To Ponder: Joyce Rupp

New Year's Prayer and Blessing

Response: **God surprise us again**

When we miss the beauty and joy of earth's goodness. . .
When we grow too accustomed to life's busyness. . .
When the goodness of others gets lost in the rush. . .
When our frailty outruns our strength. . .
When the hope in our heart fades away. . .
When the call to serve others loses its flavor. . .
When we search for the way home to you. . .
When loneliness pursues us. . .
When it seems darkness will never give way to light. . .
When the ache of the world wears our compassion thin. . .
When even you seem far away from us. . .

Response: **Walk closely with us, God**

As we strive to live our lives well. . .
As we enjoy the treasures we find in the field of faith. . .
As we continue to surrender ourselves to you. . .
As we try to love in the heart of the scriptures...
As we accept your constant love for us...
As we journey into the unknown territory of a new year. . .
As we hurt in the process of loving our enemies. . .
As we learn to accept our weaknesses and strengths. . .
As we open our hearts to the messengers you send to us. . .
As we stay faithful to our relationship with you. . .
As we give ourselves to the poor and the powerless...

Reading: Joyce Rupp

God of this new year, we are walking into mystery.
We face the future, not knowing what the days and months will bring to us or how we will respond.
Be love in us as we journey.
May we welcome all who come our way.
Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes.
Fill us with hope and an abiding trust
that you dwell in us amidst our joys and sorrows.
Thank you for the treasure of our faith life.
Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance of your walking through the day with us.
God of this new year, we praise you. Amen

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...