

Into the light

Into the blue, grey, cold, flat light
We come with our songs
Knowing we must travel yet further into the darkness
Into the waiting and the yearning
Into the loss and the chasms of the soul

And we will go
Because even here you are with us
Rod and staff you comfort us.

We will walk this Baptist straightened path
With all its locusts and camel shirts
And desert places

We will this advent straightened path
Straight may be, but stony, and steep and our knees are grazed from all the tripping

But we will go

Lead us this morning into the story of two parents who waited
Then gave birth to a Baptist Boy and a Blessing Song

Lead us this morning into all our stories
With all their waitings, and prayers, and embarrassments

Lead us this morning that we may be made ready
To hear the Good News

Oh we praise you
The wild and adventurous guide to all our journeys
The creator and creative shepherd who sets the stars rising into the Eastern sky
Yes, we praise you
With the Elizabeth and Zechariah and John and the angels, yes we praise you...

Forgive us our sins
Our assaults on what is not ours
Our panic buys
And sweetened words wrapping poison
Oh forgive us all our sins, the ones we know, the ones that haunt us, the ones lying hidden
and deep
Forgive us and let us know we are forgiven....

And now hear us in the prayer of Jesus...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth
As it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
Forever and ever,

AMEN