

Thoughts for Worship:

Puritan prayer from The Valley of Vision

Father of Jesus,
Dawn returns,
But without Your light within no outward light can profit;
Give me the saving lamp of Your Spirit that I may see You,
the God of my salvation, the delight of my soul,
rejoicing over me in love.

I commend my heart to Your watchful care,
For I know its treachery and power;
Guard its every portal from the wiley enemy,
Give me quick discernment in his deadly arts,
Help me to recognize his bold disguise as an angel of light,
and bid him begone.

May my words and works allure others to the highest of walks
of faith and love!
May loiterers be quickened to greater diligence by my example!
May worldlings be won to delight in acquaintance with You!
May the timid and irresolute be warned of coming doom
by my zeal for Jesus!

Cause me to be a mirror of Your grace,
to show others the joy of Your service,
May my lips be well-tuned cymbals sounding Your praise,
Let a halo of heavenly-mindedness sparkle around me
and a lamp of kindness sunbeam my path.

Teach me the happy art of attending to things temporal
with a mind intent on things eternal.

Send me forth to have compassion on the ignorant and miserable.
Help me to walk as Jesus walked,
my only Savior and perfect model,
his mind my inward guest,
his meekness my covering garb.

Let my happy place be amongst the poor in spirit,
my delight the gentle ranks of the meek.
Let me always esteem others better than myself,
and find in true humility an heirdom to two worlds.