

## Prayer poems

### A locked church

Ah my dear Lord, the church is locked  
but let my heart be open to your presence;  
there let us make, you and I,  
your Easter garden;  
plant it with flowers,  
and let the heavy stone be rolled away.

### A locked church, 2

Unlock my heart, three-personned God  
and with your strength  
secure the way;  
now push aside  
all that resists your might  
for only then will I be changed  
and see afresh  
your true, unfathomless  
gentleness.

*After John Donne*

### News

Attached to news  
it curls its tendrils round our lives  
Invades and squeezes,  
gradually distorts.

Christ is our news

who makes for us each day  
all things new

Attached to him,  
we find him close to us,  
like breath within us  
bringing life to every part.

### **The Interim**

Jesus of carpenter's shop  
with plane and chisel, hammer and nails  
getting on with things without fuss  
doing the necessary,  
bearing on shoulder  
the plank's weight shared with Joseph;  
sweeping aside the sawdust  
delighting in light reflecting  
off a polished surface.  
Jesus, called by Mary to eat  
taking his inner prayer with him to table  
breaking bread with family  
putting down for now plane and chisel  
Hammer and nails.

### **A Lenten Antiphon for our times**

Advancing from tedium to Te Deum we praise thee, O Lord !

### Journey into space

"Journey into space" BBC  
was all the rage when I was ten;  
now through my laptop screen

( a concept unknown then )

I enter daily a different domain,

travel into communications

otherwise impossible,

orbit the globe;

at the press of a key

space is unlocked for me

while under "lockdown."