

## The Timeless Psalms

by Joan Stott

## A Call to Worship Psalm 96, Christmas Eve/Day, Year B 2011

Blessings and honour are given to our Most High God! Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised - forever! We join in the anthem of praise to our Glorious God.

We gather to worship God whose holy splendour is beyond our knowledge, experience and understanding!

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise and reverence.

Let all creation be united in its praise and worship of our God the King, and the Wondrous Creator of all things.

We gather as God's people in this place and time, adding our worship to the endless chorus of thankfulness to God. Amen.

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## Prayers of Praise and Thankfulness Psalm 96, Christmas Eve/Day, Year B 2011

Creating God, we gather to add our voices; our songs of praise; our prayer of thankfulness; and our whole being - communally and individually – to the never-ending anthem of joy-filled worship of our Life-Renewing God.

Sustaining God, each day, a new song bubbles up in our hearts and minds; each night a new prayer of praise and thankfulness rises and reaches out to our God. Each moment, we have an awareness of the glories of our God, and our limited souls, minds and hearts seek to stretch in response to the presence of our Radiant God, whose light and love streams down upon all creation, giving it life and purpose, strength and joy. All this in the knowledge that we worship a God whose truth and righteousness is utterly to be trusted.

Glorious God, we gather together to share this good news, and to remind each other that God has firmly established this world, and nothing in life or death can shake our God. We gather as flawed humanity in the presence of the Holy One; whose creativity is continually expressed in the earth, in the heavens, in the seas, and in outer space; and we offer our worship, our reverence, and our praise to this our God. Amen.

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## A Personal Meditation Psalm 96, Christmas Eve/Day, Year B 2011

How I love to sing praises to my God, and how I yearn to more worthily respond to the wonders of my God as I experience them every day! How I long to proclaim the news of God's saving mercies; and how I yearn to more adequately express my experiences of God's majesty, powers and strength, that undergird me every day and every moment of my life, giving me the courage to share with all who will listen, my sincere appreciation of my God.

Creative pause: How I yearn to share my experiences of God.

All creation has its own ways of expressing itself, be they leaves rustling in the gentle breeze; oceans heaving their watery masses against impregnable rocks; outer space sparkling with their delight; creatures that add their input in their own various ways; all of life in its many formations join in the never-ending celebration of their Creating God.

Creative pause: The never-ending celebration of God.

Somehow, all the songs; all the dances; all the shouts of joy and celebration still seem inadequate to me when they are offered to God. Yet when I ponder the miracle of my God; the truth and righteousness of my God; the generosity of my God; the blessings of my God; the restless creativity of my God; I am still lost in wonder; I am still speechless; and I can only in humble adoration, offer all I am to my God.

Creative pause: I can only offer all I am to God in reverent praise.

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