

Keeping Christmas

—a post-Christmas prayer

The tree's so dry, its needles rain
as we pack ornaments away.
Sure, gifts that ringed the tree will stay
to make it into every day....
But what about those other presents
that the Christmas season's sent us?

Like gifts we'll wear of brand-new clothes,
will brighter spirits also show?
Or, could we play with—like good toys—
some new designs for spreading joy,
or tend within us, through the nights,
kindled hope from Bethlehem's light...
yes, hold within us, through the nights,
flames of hope from Bethlehem's light.

We've gathered round your manger for a time,
dear humble, God-sent Child of Peace,
but for the months which follow now,
your words and leading, too, we'll need.

As Christmas ends and year resets,
Lord, keep us open to accept,
as well as hope and joy and peace,
forgiveness, love, growth, purpose, healing...,
gifts that renew for weekday life,
from you, God-with-Us, Jesus Christ.

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