**Affirmation of Faith**

I believe that Christmas is more

than a time for parties and ornaments;

it is a time for remembering Christ

and the incarnation of

God’s love for human flesh.

I believe there are gifts

more important than the ones

under the Christmas tree,

such as the things

we teach our children,

the way we share ourselves with friends,

and the industry with which we set about

reshaping the world in our time.

I believe that the finest carols

are often sung by the poorest voices,

from hearts made warm

by the wonder of the season.

I believe in the angels’ message

that we should not be afraid,

that the child of Bethlehem is able

to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

I believe in prayer and quietness

as a way of appropriating Christmas

that if I wait in silence,

# I will experience the presence

of the One born in the stable,

for he lives today

as surely as he lived then.

I believe in going away from Christmas

as the wise men went ‘another way’.

I want to be different

when these days are past.

And I believe God will help me.