

Active Faith

By Philip Sudworth

Tune: *Stanley* - DLM Iambic

Why search for God enthroned above,
'Mid distant stars where angels soar?
Why look for him in ancient times,
Or far off lands beyond our shore?
O Lord, who once was homeless child,
And man in pain on gallows tree,
May we see you in those who hurt,
The destitute, the refugee.

Why wait for God to intervene,
To right the wrong, to reign supreme,
With flaming sword or angel hosts,
At hour unknown, a distant dream?
O Lord, our time to act is now,
So grant us gifts that we can share;
By channelling love, may we in turn,
be your response to someone's prayer.

Why long for life that follows death,
With heav'nly choir all dressed in white,
Among the saints around the throne,
All shadows lost in endless light?
O Lord, who said eternal life
Begins right here, may we now know
That peace and joy you offer us
In serving you on earth below.

Why think of faith as words and creeds,
As rites and rules, as holy writ?
We show our faith in how we love
When we ourselves to you commit.
O Lord, help us to spend ourselves,
As freed from self, transformed by grace,
We now respond to those in need,
Discerning you in every face.

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