

## Reflection Friday Christmas Eve Year C 2021

The wise among us believe that God would have sent Jesus to us whether we had sinned or not. Why? Because God sent Jesus to show how much God loves us and how special we are to him. This also helps us understand how sin and goodness can shape and reshape what happens in our lives. Jesus' birthday highlights all the good things God wants for us which is why we sing songs of joy, happiness, peace and good-will to all. These are the gifts that we live generously in the Advent and Christmas season and they are why we wish this spirit would continue throughout the year.

### **John the Baptist** *Simon Foulkes*

The locust is a bitter food without honey sweetness;  
for years, life was bitter - scorched, desert-ed  
Nazirite eyes black pin-pricks of pain, waiting-  
and taking ridicule. But I marked out a highway  
in the spirit and power of Elijah.

I am not the one to Come. I am not the Prophet. I am not worthy.  
I am not Messiah. I am Baptist.

Look! The lamb of God!

I baptise with water- but after me comes another,  
he stands among you - visible but unseen,  
present but not noticed, unremarked, disregarded; the cloaked traveller.

You ask me who I am - ask who He is!

In Isaiah's words: 'Here is your God'

Here - is - your - God

I cry out

from the bitter food  
but here is the honey  
the sweetness of God.

O Jerusalem, O lost and shattered city;  
city of dreams,  
of stonings and defeat.

Tenderly, sweetly,  
your work, your pain is done.

Hard service finished;  
sins deleted, paid for  
tenderly, sweetly,

Jerusalem - I am Baptist -

Here - is - your - God.