

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 2012**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ; Psalm 111 ; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ; Mark 1: 21-28**

**Eternal Christ, through whom we exist: build us up in love**

Eternal Christ through whom are all things, we breathe the leaf scented morning air, we delight in all that exists and consider in awe all that is here.

May our love for this earth be fed by open eyed curiosity ; patiently building our understanding while respectfully and humbly using its resources. May we act in love for of future generations - resisting the temptation to take environmental risks, puffed by a little knowledge.

**Eternal Christ, through whom we exist: build us up in love**

Eternal Christ our brother, raised up from amongst our own people, we mourn for those caught in violent cross-fire ; for those who have lost loved ones through fire or flood ; for those who can never return to contaminated homelands ; for those imprisoned by intolerant regimes.

May we walk in your footsteps, bringing healing without judgment to those in need - acting in love and resisiting the temptation to dictate to others, puffed by a little knowledge.

**Eternal Christ, through whom we exist: build us up in love**

Eternal Christ, through whom all are our family - we give thanks for the support of one another as we discern how best to understand and practice your life-giving word. We give thanks for our priests and for all who contribute their time, energy and prayers.

May your church resist the temptation to puff itself up with a little knowledge and pat phrases - may we build up our faith in love – searching out and treasuring our holy origin.

**Eternal Christ, through whom we exist: build us up in love**

Eternal Christ, though whom we touch the Ground of our being, we long to cleanse our souls from all that is false and destructive – desiring connection with all that is life-giving and true.

In this moment we name in our hearts all who desire peace of mind ; those in ill-health ; those far away ; those nearing the end of their life and those speaking their first words ; those we have wounded by presuming to know best ; and those in whom we delight and who delight in us. And we pray for every soul returned to the source from whom are all things.

May we all grow in wisdom - acknowledging, with our whole quaking heart, the awesome and majestic fact of our existance – may we honour our lives and the lives of others by considering in love the impact of every thought, word and action.

**Eternal Christ, through whom we exist: build us up in love**