

**Thought for the day – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

**By Revd John Marshall**

**A reading from a hymn of Ephrem of Syria**

Praise to you, Son of the Most High; who has put on our body!

Into the holy temple Simeon carried the Christ-child and sang a lullaby to him:

‘You have come , Compassionate One,  
having pity on my old age, making my bones enter  
into Sheol in peace. By you I will be raised  
out of the grave into paradise.’

Anna embraced the child: she placed her mouth  
upon her lips’ like Isaiah  
whose mouth, was silent until a coal draw near  
to his lips and opened his mouth.

She sang him a lullaby:

‘Royal Son’  
despised son, being silent, you hear;  
hidden, you see; concealed you know;  
God-man, glory to your name.’

Even the barren heard and came

Running with their provisions.

The Magi are coming with their treasures.

The barren are coming with their provisions.

Provisions and treasures were heaped up  
suddenly among the poor.

The barren woman Elizabeth cried out as she was accustomed.

'Who has granted to me, blessed woman  
to see your Babe by whom heaven and earth are filled?  
Blessed is your fruit  
that brought the cluster on a barren vine.'  
Praise to you, Son of the Most High, who has put on our body!

From shine on star of Bethlehem Canterbury Press Christian Aid.  
I liked this Epiphany Hymn. Let us remember the people of Syria.