

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Saturday 24th December 2022

By Revd John Marshall

On the Eve of Christmas (A Popular Arabic Carol)

On the Eve of Christmas	Hatred will vanish
On the Eve of Christmas	The earth will flourish
On the Eve of Christmas	War will be gone
On the Eve of Christmas	Love will be born

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

it is Christmas

When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love

it is Christmas

When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes

it is Christmas

When the spirit of revenge dies in me

it is Christmas

When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart

it is Christmas

When I am buried in the being of God

it is Christmas

Saheed Liberation Theology Centre Jerusalem

Shine on Star of Bethlehem Christian Aid Canterbury Press

POEM: Many thanks to Marion for sending this in!

Christmas Eve

By Christina Rossetti

Christmas has a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas has a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,

Christmas has a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven has answering music
For all angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.