

When Mass Begins...



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The Parish of Cardiff
St Mary the Virgin

[illegible]

Hush

Everyone is quiet.

Everyone is still.

I hear the bell ring.

The organ begins to whisper.

Gentle, gentle,
like a breeze,
gliding through pipes.

And then it blows a great big
whoosh!
of music into the air.

Boom!

Bang!

Blah!

I laugh.

It is loud and getting **louder!**
louder!
louder!

It takes my breath away.

‘All things bright and
beautiful, all creatures
great and small, all
things wise and
wonderful, the Lord
God made them all...’



I feel God near me.

I hear his whisper.

Gentle, gentle,
like a breeze.

God is glad to be here.

I sit at his feet.

He smiles.

It takes my breath away.



God

The people stand to sing.

Some squeak like little mice.

Some **shout!** like giants.

Some open their mouths but make

no sound at all.

They are singing in their hearts.

I think they are glad to be here.

They look around.

Perhaps they are looking for God.

They make me smile.

‘Let my prayer rise
like incense before
you, the lifting up
of my hands as
the evening
sacrifice.’

I know God has heard my little voice.

He always hears me when I pray.

I try to be quiet.

I try to be still.

I try to listen to God speaking to me.



Hush.

[illegible]

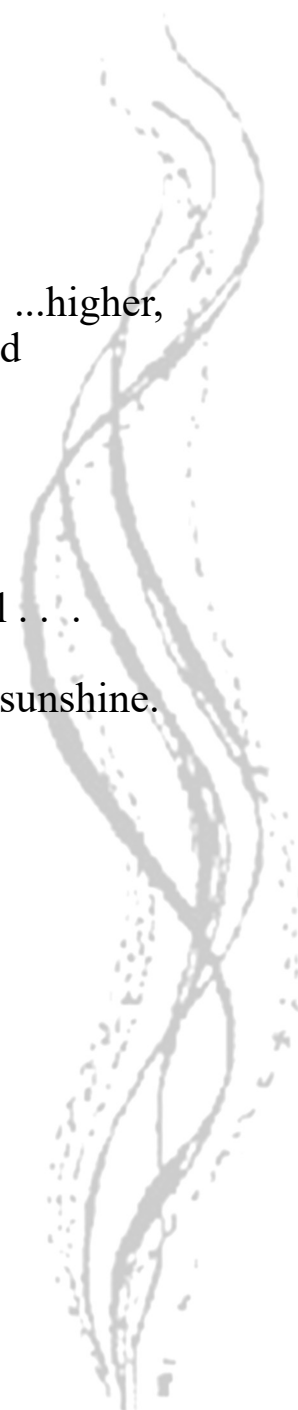
...higher,
...and
The smoke rises high...

it swirls and dances,

it fills the air
with a sweet smell...

I watch the smoke play in the sunshine.

I imagine I am smoke.



Eucharist

Sacrament

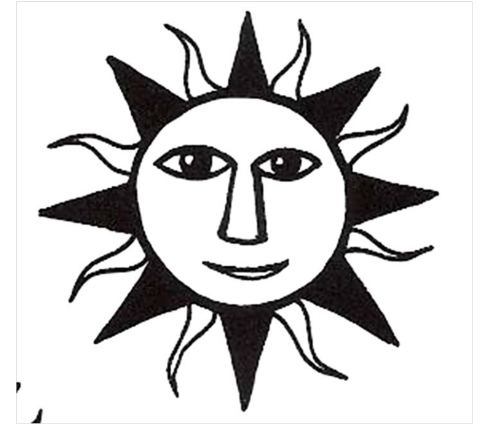
Communion

Liturgy

Gathering



Salvation



I say a little prayer.

...higher,

...and

My prayer rises high...

it swirls and dances,
filling the air,

rising to God, like smoke,

like a sweet s m e l l . . .

like p e r f u m e . . .

I watch my prayer playing in the sunshine.

I imagine my prayer is smoke.



The church smells like heaven smells.

Heaven is close.

It is not far away.

It is never far away.

I look for heaven.

