

Almighty God, Heavenly Power of Love,

Thank you for today. For carrying us through one helluva year  
in which we've seen the best and worst of humanity that comes out when we face crises,  
and in which the best and worst has been brought out in ourselves.

In times of pain and fear, we thank you for your human angels,  
people just like us, who know that their cups shall overflow,  
and so let their love flow and bring light where they go.

Forgive us, and let us forgive ourselves, for all the times we felt that our rivers of love had run dry,  
for all the times fear has made us close the door,  
for all the times pain has made us harden our hearts,  
for all the times we've felt too over-stretched and stressed that we've curtly said: There's no room in my Inn.

And in those times, let the water start to trickle. Show us that our cup is full and running over.

Remind us of the human angels we've encountered in our lives – the ones on Earth still, and ones who live in  
our hearts and in Heaven,  
people who we had the privilege of knowing and loving,  
or strangers who were generous in a fleeting moment, who we may never meet again.

Remind us that we are so much stronger than we think we are. And, God, please send strength to all those who  
are currently battling COVID-19 and help them get through it.

Remind us that choosing love doesn't cost anything. That, most of the time, no one is trying to hurt us, but that  
humans just make a lot of mistakes.

Remind us that we too can be human angels. And that even human angels can have bad days and forget you,  
that's what makes us human.

Just keep shepherding us back to your redemptive love.

Amen.

Sophie Joans

Opening Prayer on 20 December 2020