

The One Who Ascends in Love

A Litany by Rick McKinney, 2022

He, the author of creation, in the fullness of time, descends into the womb of a humble creature.
He is knit together in his mother's womb and takes on human hands, human feet and a human heart.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through his mother's birth canal and his mother's arms and nurses lovingly at her breast.
He passes through infancy and childhood in a loving family and is faithfully obedient to his parents.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through his bar-mitzvah, learning the Holy Scriptures and explaining them to temple scholars.
He passes through skills of carpentry working at his foster father's side and grows in wisdom and favor.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He, the beloved Son, passes through baptism and then through fasting and temptation in a desert sun.
He passes through crowds and chooses disciples while preaching, delivering, feeding and healing all.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through tests of character with wisdom, compassion, patience, kindness and self-control.
He passes through joy and misunderstandings as he teaches in synagogues, seashores and desert places.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through the gates of Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey while being hailed as the messiah.
He passes through temple tables of money and power, turning them and their world upside down.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through a last Passover meal and establishes from it a new covenant in his body and blood.
He passes through agonized prayer, betrayal, arrest, fallen away disciples and a best friend's denial.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through hitting, spitting, pushing and rejection by course men and their priestly leaders.
He passes through being handed over again and again to priests, to Pilate, to soldiers, to king and back.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through fierce scourging with sharpen whips, crowning with thorns, and beatings with staff.
He passes through a last, stumble laden walk with heavy cross on crowded streets and sorrowful greets.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through piercing nails in his hand and feet on a naked cross raised high for all to see and seek.
He passes through parting words to crowd, to soldiers, to dying companion, to mother, and to brother.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through painful death, through sad burial, and even through the gates of the netherworld.
He passes through glorious resurrection and awe-struck greetings to amazed disciples ever rejoicing.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes through parting words to chosen witnesses and rises up into clouds of heavenly wonder.
He passes through the ranks of angelic choirs, principalities, authorities, dominions, and powers.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.
He passes to the throne of God to sit at His right hand so as to judge with love the living and the dead.

The one who ascends in love is the one who descends in love and passes through in love.