Key to the Christian faith is relationship and since 2001 the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada have worked hard to nurture relationships in every dimension of our common life. Building on the success of joint General Synod/National Church Convention days in 2001 and 2007, our churches will hold a Joint Assembly in Ottawa in 2013 to work together to further the visible unity of Christ’s body.

My wife and I recently attended a performance of ‘birdsong’, composed by the Canadian composer, Ed Henderson, and sung by Musica Intima, a Vancouver-based choral group. The work features the poetry of Rumi, the thirteenth-century Sufi mystic poet. One poem gripped me in particular:

With your lips not here I kiss rubies to remember.
When I can’t sip from you, I put my lip on the cup’s lip.
Instead of reaching into your sky, I kneel and take handfuls of earth.

The feast of the Epiphany is the celebration of the God who comes among us so that we can kiss the lips that breathe life into us and can grasp the hands that uphold the earth. The ordinary becomes extraordinary: a child becomes the vessel of the unseen God so that earth and heaven are united. God’s love, incarnate in Jesus, captures all of creation in its embrace and we, God’s witnesses, call others to kiss and embrace that love made manifest in us and in all the works of God’s hands.
Lover of creation, you make yourself known in the Child of Bethlehem and in the wonders of creation. Grant us eyes to see and arms to embrace your presence made known to us in the fabric of your creation. We ask this in the name of your Beloved united in your Love. Amen.

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