

## **FAMILY**

It's so tempting to define  
'who's in', 'who's out',  
to want to change those  
who don't fit the familiar vision.

*How do you love us  
When we're convinced that  
Their eyes need opening  
Not ours?*

**O Merciful God, by your look of compassion  
Save us from illusion**

It's so convenient to lay blame  
out there, when in the midst  
are women and families  
imprisoned by illiteracy.

*How do you love us  
when, in our cultures,  
we close our ears  
to the unvoiced?*

**O Living Word, by your justice  
Save us from empty talk**

It's so virtuous to uphold  
the 'good' of the family when  
conformity can deaden the spirit,  
when stifled anger makes peace a sham.

*How do you love us  
When we close our hearts and minds  
To the creative struggle,  
The cost of daring to grow?*

**O Bringer of Truth, by your power  
Save us from the desire to control**

Why is it so unacceptable: this unconditional love;  
this undeserved gift of forgiveness;  
this saving power that yearns  
to transform difficulties into opportunities?

**O Christ, by your life-giving Cross  
We pray for unity - for Love's sake**

