

## Poetry

### Two Trees – a set of meditative poems to use in prayer

*This set of two meditative poems form envisioning prayers for a life of chosen, and balanced, surrender. They draw inspiration from a number of key trees described in scripture, including in [Psalm 1](#), [Isaiah 61:1-4](#), [Jeremiah 17:7-8](#) and [Revelation 22:1-2](#) – as well as the cross itself. They could be particularly helpful during times of transition, or re-envisioning, or as Lent or Easter reflections – especially when accompanied by images, or physical parts, of trees.*

#### **Two trees (I)**

Two trees  
have captivated  
this still widening heart;  
two trees  
blossom vision  
for an oak set apart.

One tree  
bore its choicest fruit  
when dead wood on a hill;  
the other  
lives by life's river  
and gives healing leaves still.

The first  
beckons me humbly;  
redefine what is treasure.  
The last  
says "what the first won  
is for all and is forever".

Both trees  
draw up my gaze  
to adore the One I seek;  
both trees  
move all my strength  
towards nations and the least.

Two trees  
have come to stand  
for everything I know:  
Love  
gives its life away -  
and in love I long to grow.

**Two trees (II)**

Two trees  
stand before me  
each and every hour;  
two trees  
speak constant choice  
between surrender and power.

One tree  
silently signs  
'Wait, drink deep through planted roots'.  
The other  
usually clamours  
'Be the gardener - pick your own fruits'.

The first  
stands steadfast strong  
budding slow but constantly;  
the last  
has a quicker crop  
but always drops deciduous leaves.

Surrendered growth  
is my dearest dream  
but still sometimes I seize  
control's tree's  
ripe temptation  
to do right now just as I please.

Two trees  
are here again  
depicting both my choices;  
Stream-side tree,  
please lead this oak -  
out-blossom your rival's loud voices.