

Prayer (I)

Prayer the Churches banquet, Angels age,
 Gods breath in man returning to his birth,
 The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth;

5 Engine against th' Almightye, sinners towre,
 Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
 The six-daies world transposing in an houre,
A kinde of tune, which all things heare and fear;

10 Softnesse, and peace, and joy, and love, and blisse,
 Exalted Manna, gladnesse of the best,
 Heaven in ordinarie, man well drest,
The milkie way, the bird of Paradise,

 Church-bels beyond the starres heard, the souls bloud,
 The land of spices; something understood.

Taken from *George Herbert: 100 Poems*, edited by Helen Wilcox (Cambridge University Press, 2016).