

## **REFLECTION – Tracing the rainbow through the rain**

1. O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

2. O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
**I trace the rainbow through the rain,**  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

4. O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

George Matheson was born in Glasgow in 1842. He was a brilliant scholar and strong Christian and everything was going well for him. At university he had fallen in love with a fellow student and their plans were eventually to marry.

However, at age 19 he was diagnosed with an incurable disease that would eventually result in him being totally blind. His soon-to-be wife was unable to cope with the thought of being married to a blind man and left him.

His sister became his main carer and George was able to resume his studies and eventually became a minister and wrote several books.

His sister then married and it was against the background of his sister's marriage – losing his carer and the memories of his marriage that never was – that the words to 'O Love that wilt not let me go' came to Matheson. He recorded later that the words of the hymn came to him in a matter of minutes.

***Surely goodness and mercy  
are following (pursuing) me  
all the days of my life***

As we go through Deep Calls To Deep, we will be looking to '*trace the rainbow through the rain*'.

Psalm 23 gives us this powerful image of God's goodness and mercy (loving kindness) actively

pursuing us all the days of our life!

Spend some time in the coming week with this thought.

*'... all the days of my life'* – that must mean that God was actively seeking and pursuing us even before we became Christians!

Are you aware of any ways in which God was seeking and pursuing you even before you started to respond to His love.

Even now you may be aware of times in your Christian journey where it seems as if God has been distant or even absent. Let's start our journey together with this picture of God actively seeking and pursuing us at every stage of our life.