

Christmas Day

My Dearest

This has been so far a very busy day and a very happy one. The happiest part is that you will be home soon. I do so hope that you will have had my telegram today then you too will be really happy.

My day began some time before six when Vi came into my room as arranged to tell me that she was ready to go to early service and I went down stairs into her bed to finish the night out there. She came in a little before eight and Clare came into my bed & we snuggled down for a few minutes and talked of Christmas.

Then we both got up. After breakfast Helen & I made beds & then I took the

children out till it was time to get ready for church. Clare employed most of the time out in climbing of the gate which repeated many times, she is very good at it. Then we all went to church, I in my fur coat I think I could have preached a better sermon than we had. I should have preached about the 85th psalm which was the last one we had. Its extraordinarily applicable to the present times & very beautiful. We stayed to communion. I met beside Mrs Bond one of the Doctors ~~was~~ the wife of one of the Doctors here. They lost their only & brilliant son just during the last few weeks of the war. I felt almost unbearably sorry for them both. I wonder if prayers for people like that can help them at all.

After lunch we gave the maids their presents, the crêpe de chine for blouses was a great success. They were awfully pleased with it. Clare and Bessy came down and gave Vi the green jade necklace. Then the children came into the drawing-