

Mid-week Advent Service  
December 9, 2020  
Advent 2 - Light and Darkness

(A few moments of silence)

'Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.' (John 1:3-5)

In the beginning, Lord  
I was alone  
Like the earth  
before your Spirit moved over the waters.  
I was formless and empty  
and darkness filled the depths of my heart.  
Then, it was as if you declared  
'Let there be Light'  
and out of the darkness  
I began to see hope  
like a shimmering ray of love  
breaking through the parting clouds  
at the conclusion of the night.  
In the beginning, Lord I was alone  
but when I saw you in the light I was no longer afraid.  
You held out your hand  
and though I had a choice  
I had no choice  
because to refuse  
was to embrace again the darkness.  
In the beginning, Lord I was alone  
now I am again a part  
of your creation  
loved, wanted, needed, family.  
In the light of your presence  
I hold out my heart that others  
might glimpse through it your reflection  
and be drawn from the darkness that I once embraced  
into the light of your sunrise  
the brightness of your face

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Savior of the world

**All: Be the center of all that we are, and the life that we lead**

Lord Jesus, Light in this dark World, illuminate our hearts and minds

**All: Be the center of all that we are, and the life that we lead**

**Ubi caritas et amor**  
*Where True Charity and Love Abide*

The image shows a musical score for the Latin antiphon 'Ubi caritas et amor'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two lines of the antiphon, and the second system contains the last two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and moving lines.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
*Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,*

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.  
*God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.*

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. *With One Voice*  
Music: TAIZÉ UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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'There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.'  
(John 1:6-9)

**A moment of silence** - During the silence, you may like to read and reflect on the words that have been read or simply enjoy the peace and calm

In the lonely places  
The wilderness  
Where we stand forlorn  
Windswept and alone  
Your voice calls out  
**Prepare a way for the Lord**

In the dark places  
The shadows  
Where we hide our fears  
Embrace our tears  
Your voice calls out  
**Prepare a way for the Lord**

For the desert places in which we walk  
 The streets we roam  
 The paths we cross  
 Guide our feet  
 Take us to places  
 Where you would go  
 Give us words that you would use  
 That in this Advent season  
 Of promise and preparation  
 We might point the way with John the Baptist  
 To the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

O come, Thou Day-spring, from on high,  
 And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come again and with us ever dwell**

### Scripture reading - Luke 1:5-17

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

## Veni Sancte Spiritus Holy Spirit, Come to Us

*Ostinato (repeated continuously)*



Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.      Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.      Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

## **Intercessions - A circle prayer**

Circle us, Lord

Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world

Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation

Enable us to be victors over sin and despair

Enable us to become that which you would desire

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

**Circle us with the light of your presence**

Circle us, Lord

Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms

Protect them in each moment of their daily lives

Protect them in the decisions that they face

Protect their homes and relationships

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

**Circle our families with the light of your presence**

Circle us, Lord

Circle this nation with Advent love and hope

Create a desire to listen to the Advent message

Create a willingness to understand and respond

Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

**Circle our nation with the light of your presence**

Circle us, Lord

Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation

Where there is sickness and disease bring healing

Where there is hunger and despair bring hope

Where there is torture and oppression bring release

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

**Circle this world with the light of your presence**

Our Father...

Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path;

grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching,

that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Jerome, c 342 - 420)

Benediction