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

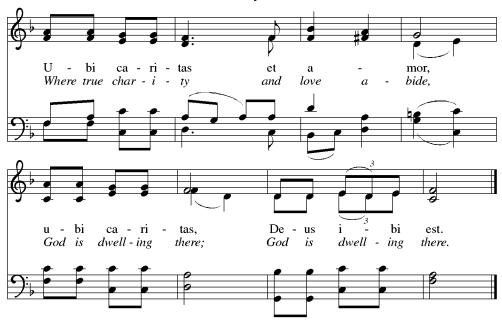
Lord Jesus, Son of God, Savior of the world

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



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



Intercessions - A circle prayer

Circle us. Lord

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

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