

advent celtic meditation

Opening Responses

*So much of faith is waiting,
like a pregnant woman waiting in hope,
like a people under siege, holding out till relief comes,
like the soul lost in the darkness, unable to see even a glimmer of light
yet stumbling through the night because somewhere out ahead, day will surely break.*

God is with us in our waiting.

Kindle a Flame

God, star kindler, kindle a flame of love within us

to light our path in days of darkness.

God, sun warmer, warm us with your love

to melt the frozen hand of guilt.

God, moon burnisher, burnish the shield of faith

that we may seek justice and follow the ways of peace.

A candle is lit

Chant VU19

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Reading

Isaiah 2.1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. 3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Meditation

Sit in silence and re-read the passage or listen to a piece of music like *Drifting in Dreamland* by Dan Gibson & Daniel May or *Christmas Time is Here* by Lee Mendelson & Vince Guaraldi as you re-read the passage.

Ask yourself: Why was this written? To whom was it written? What is it saying to me? How can I respond?

Advent Prayer

By The Iona Community from *Cloth For The Cradle*

*Eternal God, in the long ago when the earth was flat,
and heaven was above the clouds, and disease was caused by demons,
your son was born to lighten our darkness.*

We, now, after the enlightenment, are in bondage to different limitations.

*We doubt what we cannot prove, we ignore what we cannot see,
and finding little room for faith, we confess,*

we suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

We admit ourselves to be both infected and affected by the spirit of our times.

*Behind talk of world peace we hear the machinery of war;
beneath talk of global equality we detect the posturing the powerful;
beside talk of your church being renewed, we recognize the bondage to failed patterns of the past.*

Rather than embrace the light, we become fascinated by darkness, and must confess,

we suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

Ah, God, who will save us?

*Our cynicism is the fruit of our experience, not the key to the future.
Our suspiciousness helps us to smell the rat, never to recognize the dove.*

It is with little pride we must confess,

we suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

*As Christmas approaches, give us a share of that divine naiveté
enjoyed by Elizabeth and Zachariah, Mary and Joseph and unnamed country folk who encountered angels
and believed the Good News and recognized Christ among them.*

Sung Blessing

written by Rev. Darryl Macdonald to the tune Cradle Song VU69

The love of Christ Jesus enfold you this day;
The Spirit to guide you, your friend on the way;
God's wisdom to fill you, your heart will take flight;
A world blessed and sacred in Advent's true Light.