
Meditation

Christmas Day: God of the Dark and the LIGHTⁱ

::: ONE :::

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

⁵ *The LIGHT shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

⁹ *The true LIGHT,
which enLIGHTens everyone,
was coming into the world.*

¹⁰ *HE was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.*

¹¹ *He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.*

¹² *But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God.*

⁵ *The LIGHT shines in the darkness.*

::: TWO :::

On yesterday's eve it began,
a LIGHT unseen entered the world,
a world in darkness,
a world in need of LIGHT.

Not a LIGHT from within,
not a LIGHT kindled but vanishing again—in the
end.

A LIGHT from the Master of all LIGHT,
the reignited LIGHT of creation.

Hears four texts this morning—
like gemstones—describing the LIGHT:

WE SEE THE LIGHT

In violent times,
beautiful words,
centuries old,
resonant with truth:

'Because of your LIGHT, Lord,
we see the LIGHT.' (Psalm 36:9)

That LIGHT, even now,
illuminating
our terror-stricken age
with the possibility of change:
offering our over-burdened hearts
a resting place
that a deeper compassion
may be our companion –

an energy of love
to struggle for justice,
to be a wounded healer,
to share what we have,
to carry hope in our hearts,
to laugh and to love,
perhaps, all in one day!

Peter Millar

::: THREE :::

CARRYING A CANDLE

Carrying a candle
from one little place of shelter
to another
is an act of love.

To move through the huge
and hungry darkness, step by step,
against the invisible wind

that blows forever around the world,
carrying a candle,
is an act of foolhardy hope.

Surely it will be blown out:
the wind is contemptuous,
the darkness cannot comprehend it.
How much LIGHT can this tiny flame shed
on all the great issues of the day?
It is as helpless as a newborn child.

Look how the human hand,
that cradles it, has become translucent:
fragile and beautiful; foolish and loving.
Step by step.

The wind is stronger than this hand,
and the darkness infinite
around this tiny here-and-now flame
that wavers, but keeps burning:
carried with such care
through an uncaring world
from one little place of shelter to another.
An act of love.

The LIGHT shines in the darkness
and the darkness can never put it out.

Jan Sutch Pickard

∴ FOUR ∴

RE-ENCHANTED

Within these fragmented days,
a gentle invitation
threads through our lives,
reminding us that all is sacred and rooted
in a love that knows no bounds

And with that quiet knowledge
we re-enchant our times,
taking risks on holy ground:

hearing God's heartbeat in our global discomfort,
halting our harshness in our work for justice,
loosening our souls as our fears are named,
recognising new markers
in the passions of our prayers.

Re-enchanted, we journey freely,
re-imagining God's presence
with re-awakened minds;
discovering afresh that surprising healing Word
which today, so powerfully,
illuminates our poverty of understanding.

Peter Millar

∴ FIVE ∴

IN THE DARK WITH JESUS

In the dark with Jesus,
held in tenderness,
silent, simply waiting,
deepest rest.

In the dark with Jesus,
quiet, hidden growing,
inner rubbish sorting,
frenzy stilled.

God's glory wrapped in shadows;
brightness hid for love's sake.
Contentedly beside us
when life's LIGHT is blinding.
For in the dark with Jesus,
healing comes.

::: SIX :::

The LIGHT shines in the darkness
and the darkness can never put it out.

The LIGHT shines in your darkness
and the darkness can never put it out.

The LIGHT shines in your neighbours' darkness
and the darkness can never put it out.

The LIGHT shines in our world's darkness
and the darkness can never put it out.

The LIGHT shines in the darkness
and the darkness can never put it out.

::: AMEN.

ⁱ With texts taken from LIGHT & DARKNESS, Stock code: PL 10071 (from: CANDLES & CONIFERS, Resources for All Saints' and Advent), Wild Goose Publications, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3DH,UK.