

Advent

a reflection for advent

AIM

This piece is a reflection for Advent, for use by groups or individuals.

INTRODUCTION

A reflection for Advent is based on material from the Iona Community. You may want to use it to conclude the activity Advent Waiting.

Reflection

In the beginning, God allowed for chaos,
for troubled dreams, and uncertain sounds,
and fear in the darkness.

Then, when chaos was most threatening and hope was bleakest,
God said, 'Let there be light'

And there was light. (main candle is lit)

So, remember the chaos, the uncertainty,
the confusion in which you once floundered,
and give thanks for the light.

Silence... then a sung response like

*Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.*

Bless the Lord, my soul.

He leads me into life.

In the course of time, God allowed for a journey
from ourselves to other people, from restriction to freedom,

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from a forgotten place to a promised land.

And when the journey was hardest, and the way ahead unclear,
and the temptation to turn back most alluring,
God said, 'Let there be light,'

And there was light. (a second candle is lit)

So, remember your journey and how far you have travelled,
and give thanks for the light.

Silence... then a sung response

Later yet,

God allowed for the special:

for friendship to grow

for truth to be discovered

for faith to become real

On the mountaintop and in quiet places,
God blessed us, saying, 'Let there be light.'

And there was light. (a third candle is lit)

So remember not why, but how and when and where you've been blessed,
and give thanks for the light.

Silence... then a sung response

And then, when the light was brightest,
and life was good, despite our better judgment,
but in solidarity with all humankind, we chased shadows,
and chose darkness.

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Candles extinguished

So, remember how and when and where
and perhaps why you have wandered
from the light.

Silence....

Because God loves us,
there will be light again.

Not first in chaos, not first on the journey,
not first for the special place,
but on the ground and in a hidden place,
God will come, offering a baby's hand
to greet us.

Sung response as candles are re-lit

Lord Jesus Christ,
who chose at Bethlehem to meet us,
make us ready to lose and leave
all that makes us proud and sufficient.
Let our knees bend to you,
our hearts cradle you,
our lips sing you songs of love.

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EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

If you want more Advent material please revisit the website. Material for other seasons will be available in due course.

Acknowledgements

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