

What You Hear in the Dark

Dan Schutte, SJ

***What you hear in the dark;
you must speak in the light.
You are salt for the earth;
you are light for the world.***

Let your light be seen;
stand against the night.
Let your words of mercy
tell the glory of the Lord.

Earth shall pass away;
heaven will be undone.
Never shall the word of God
be broken or destroyed.

Strengthen weary arms;
steady all trembling knees.
Say to every fearful heart
have courage, trust in God.

Prayer Leader:

Ron Konkoly

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From Christmas to Christmas



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

14812 Lake Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107 | 216.228.7451
centeringspace@srssofcharity.org | www.centeringspace.org

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To Ponder: Advent is obviously big stuff

We imagine, we wait, we hope for the biggest of dreams. What we are not waiting for is Christmas. If by that we mean that we pretend that Jesus has not yet been born and we are on a countdown to the birth of the baby Jesus. ADVENT IS NOT A COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS.

What we wait and hope for is the reign of God overwhelming the reign of injustice. What we want and hope for is the Prince of Peace unseating the princes of war. What we wait and hope for is the love of God eroding the love of money. What we wait and hope for is that the world be renewed in the likeness of God. This is the stuff of spirited imagination. This is the stuff of hope, BIG hope. This is the stuff worth waiting for and hoping for. *David Carlson*

The celebration of Christmas is not a sentimental waiting for a baby to be born, but much more ... We do the gospel no favor when we make Jesus, the eternal Christ, into a perpetual baby, a baby able to ask little or no adult response from us. One even wonders what the mind is that would keep Jesus a baby. Maybe it was “baby Christianity.” *Richard Rohr*

Reading:

Evelyn Underhill *The Soul's Delight*

Joy and peace come into our lives
when we mind more about God than we do about ourselves,
what the things that matter really are...

Joy's very being is lost in the great tide of selfless delight --
creation's response to the infinite loving of God.

But, of course, the point for us is that this selfless joy has got to go on at times when we ourselves are in the dark, obsessed by the sorrow of life so that we feel no joy because we cannot gaze at the beauty.

Joy is the fruit of the Spirit, *not* of our gratified emotions.

Come, bless the Lord...Lift up your hands to the holy Lord...
Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...