

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL
IN THE LORD I WILL REJOICE
LOOK TO GOD, DO NOT BE AFRAID
LIFT UP YOUR VOICES, THE LORD IS NEAR
LIFT UP YOUR VOICES, THE LORD IS NEAR (Taize)

COMMUNION

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

UNION

At the beginning of a new yearly cycle, the liturgy invites the Church to renew her proclamation to all the peoples and sums it up in two words 'God comes.' These words, so concise, contain an ever new evocative power.

Advent calls believers to become aware of this truth and to act accordingly. It rings out as a salutary appeal in the days, weeks and months that repeat: Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now!

~Pope Benedict XVI

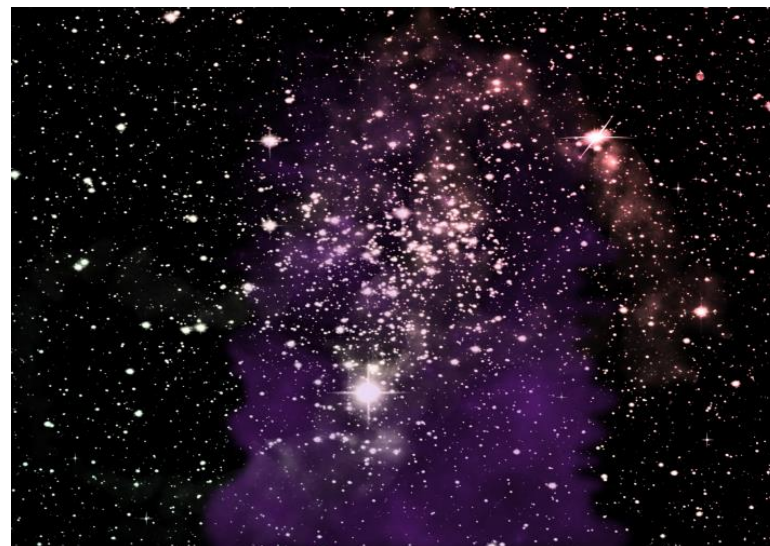
GLORIA, GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO
GLORIA, GLORIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

Interested in the Imago Dei email meditations, or information about groups meeting locally? Sign the list at the front or look on our website.
Rob Des Cotes' books are also available at the front (cheques payable to Ruth Des Cotes)
Our next Contemplative Service will be on **January 14, 2023** at 7 pm.

Imago Dei Christian Community
www.imagodeicommunity.ca

Advent Liturgy

December 10, 2022



We are not alone

Imago Dei is an invitation to a life drawn deeper to God in prayer.

Contemplative Liturgy

O Emmanuel (see insert)

~Malcolm Guite

AWAKENING

God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving toward the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us.

~Henri Nouwen

○ COME ○ COME EMMANUEL (see insert)

ILLUMINATION

Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us.

~Pope Benedict XVI

GOD IS WITH US, WE ARE NOT ALONE
CHRIST IS PRESENT HERE, THE SPIRIT MOVES WITHIN US

LET US GIVE THANKS TO GOD,
IN MEMORY AND HOPE (RPT)

This is the Christian's joy:

I know that I am a thought in God,
no matter how insignificant I may be –
the most abandoned of beings,
one no one thinks of.

Today, when we think of Christmas gifts,
how many outcasts no one thinks of!
Think to yourselves, you that are outcasts,
you that feel you are nothing in history:
"I know that I am a thought in God."

Would that my voice might reach the imprisoned
like a ray of light, of Christmas hope –
might say also to you, the sick,
the elderly in the home for the aged,
the hospital patients,
you that live in shacks and shantytowns,
you coffee harvesters trying to garner your only wage
for the whole year,
you that are tortured:

God's eternal purpose has thought of all of you.
He loves you, and, like Mary,
incarnates that thought in his womb.

~Oscar Romero

STAY WITH US, O LORD JESUS CHRIST
NIGHT WILL SOON FALL
STAY WITH US, O LORD JESUS CHRIST
LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS (Taizé)

CONFESSION

For this is what the high and lofty One says-
The One who lives forever, whose name is holy:
"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with those who are contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

~Isa. 57:15

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us,
O long-sought with'ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light,
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness,
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands
~Malcolm Guite

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

O COME O COME EMMANUEL
AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL
THAT MOURNS IN LOWLY EXILE HERE
UNTIL THE SON OF GOD APPEAR

REJOICE, REJOICE
EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE, O ISRAEL

O COME THOU DAYSPRING FROM ON HIGH
AND CHEER US BY YOUR DRAWING NIGH
DISPERSE THE GLOOMY CLOUDS OF NIGHT
AND DEATH'S DARK SHADOWS PUT TO FLIGHT

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