Theme: Circle of Light

Blessed are you who bear the light

by Jan Richardson (janrichardson.com)

Blessed are you who bear the light in unbearable times, who testify to its endurance amid the unendurable, who bear witness to its persistence when everything seems in shadow and grief.

Blessed are you in whom the light lives, in whom the brightness blazes—your heart a chapel, an altar where in the deepest night can be seen the fire that shines forth in you in unaccountable faith, in stubborn hope, in love that illumines every broken thing it finds.

Musical Selection: Talia Miracula

Nox, (Night)
silentium, (silence,)
tenebra. (darkness.)
Lux! (Light!)
Luminosa! (Bright light!)
Gaudium Magnum! (Great joy!)
Christus natus est! (Christ is born!)
Voces angelorum, (Voices of angels)
Gloria! (Gloria!)
Gloria et in terra pax. (Gloria and peace on earth.)
Tenebra, (Darkness,)
silentium. (silence.)
Nox. (Night.)
Pax. (Pax.)
“Being light in the world can be as small as the twinkling of a faraway star or as bright as a bonfire.”

Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton, Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering

“Advent begins in a spiritual dusk from which the light of one candle on the wreath shines outward — a necessary, treasured reminder of the light that shines on in any darkness we find ourselves in…To anyone who has lost their way in this darkness, know that you have precious gifts to give. You have the light that shines on in the darkness. You have the hope that cannot be overcome. You have the good news that Christ will come, his Kingdom will prevail, and darkness will not last.”

David Reed, Bishop of West Texas
Excerpt from his Advent Letter, 2021
Link to full letter: https://www.dwtx.org/blog/2022-advent-letter

“A blessing is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal and strengthen.”
— John O’Donohue

“When you send that love out from the bountifulness of your own love, it reaches other people. This love is the deepest power of prayer.”
— John O’Donohue, ‘Anam Cara’.

Blessing the Ordinary

Let these words lay themselves like a blessing upon your head, your shoulders,

as if, like hands, they could pass on to you what you most need for this day

—Jan Richardson, from “Blessing the Ordinary” in Circle of Grace, p. 179