

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELLS AMONG US

GATHERING:

In this sacred season of Advent, we remember and celebrate the gift of Divine Love Who leapt from heaven into the heart of humanity. This Loving Presence became for us in the midst of our darkness a source of hope, compassion and courage.

Be attentive to darkness. Recognize that some darkness is good and nurturing. The Christ was nurtured in a womb of darkness and came forth from this blessed darkness to be a Light for us.

Other darkness is destructive. It is the darkness of war, racism, hatred, greed and non-loving in whatever form it takes.

The Christ came to stand up to this destructive darkness and to light our path with goodness and hope. As a people of hope and joy, we pray:

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I paused on a winter cold night and felt the beauty of soft snowflakes upon my cheeks. I marveled at a presence more than mine in that moment of wonder... *AND...*

I visited a dying woman in the hospital. I sensed her courage and her strength in the midst of great frailty...*AND...*

I looked into the face of the clerk in the department store. It was the face of one who was tired and discouraged...*AND...*

I walked past a homeless man on the street. He held out his cap and asked me for coffee-money to warm him in the cold...*AND...*

I saw the faces of the children held in the detention centers and the parents crying for them...*AND...*

I went to a Christmas party and saw friends of long ago. We laughed and reminisced and enjoyed the moments we had known in years gone by...*AND...*

I went to church today and sang songs of Advent yearning. I turned my heart to the God who is always in need of a better dwelling place and I begged for my transformation...*AND...*

(Adapted: Joyce Rupp)

Reflect on your own experiences of God's presence in your life...

At the end of the meeting: What were the signs of hope that we experienced within our meeting today?

CLOSING PRAYER: *AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELLS AMONG US*

