

Lent 2007 – Darkness in an Age of Glare

GATHERING

ENTRANCE

REFLECTION



"Not to flood darkness with light so that the darkness is destroyed, but to enter into darkness, mystery, so that it is experienced."

–Denise Levertov

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Resting here in the drowned world

we surrender to when we sleep,

People: we feel the dark river that flows

through every heart-beat,

the pulse of deep music.

Leader: In the heart of the world

All: we are called to be the Body of Christ.

INVOCATION

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

**RESPONSIVE READING of the Psalm
for the
week the**

SILENCE

PRAYERS

COMMON CONFESSION

Leader: While diamonds and oil, dreams and new concertos
 churn in the making dark,

 we back away from the flash and shine

 of sleek airplanes, of guns, knives,
portfolios,

 missiles, the afterglow of drugged
hallucinations.

People: Evil in our time is massive and open,

 done in broad daylight,

 planned under harsh fluorescent lights,

Voice 1: Done on filmed battlefields and in our living
rooms,

 propelled by whatever science we can
decipher

from the stunning beauty

of cells and microbes, planets and stars.

Voice 2: With all our old symbols of candles and torches,
with our little logos of lamps of learning,
since ancient times we have always been
taught

to seek and pursue the light.

But sometimes now we shield our eyes

from all the glitter and glare,

All: And sometimes, God, we tremble in fear
of some blinding ray or nuclear flash of
ultimate light

that could level to ashes

our creating and destroying of the world you
gave us.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: Now we rest for a moment

 in the shadow of the Almighty,

 embraced by God's love.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

JESUS PRAYER

All: O Birther! Father – Mother of the Cosmos

 focus your light within us – make it useful.

 Create your reign of unity now –

 through our fiery hearts and willing hands.

 Help us love beyond our ideals

and sprout acts of compassion for all
creatures.

Animate the earth within us: we then
feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.

Untangle the knots within
so that we can
mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.

Don't let surface things delude us,
but free us
from what holds us back from our true
purpose.

Out of you, the astonishing fire,
returning light and sound to the cosmos.

Amen .

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

The first Sunday of each month we switch to a Comunion Liturgy

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: Coming out of this dark, show us, O Holy One,

 as for the first time, the rich glowings

 of our different skins,

 the eyes of the oppressed searching like
beacons,

 the flares of wonder

 that play in the eyes of our children.

All: By way of darkness, seeing anew,

 we pray to live again

 in the wonder of the light of Christ.
Amen.

Worship Resources:

Liturgy adapted with permission from "A Litany Prayer for
Darkness in an Age of Glare"

by Rod Jellema.

Jesus Prayer from the original Aramaic translation by Neil
Douglas-Klotz in "Prayers of the Cosmos"

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