

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Spiritual Reflections for the Advent and Christmas Season

Advent Reflection: November 30th through December 24th

1. Reading: Hymn “Creator of the Stars of Night”

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Two minutes of silence.

2. Reflection: “Creator of the Stars of Night”

On the Salisbury Plain in southern England in the 7th century, the night was filled with stars and galaxies. An anonymous composer wrote the hymn “Creator of the Stars of Night”. It is an ancient, haunting melody that expresses hope, longing, and desire. It is the church advent hymn where we hope for the Paraclete to join heaven and earth in one, in Jesus.

One minute of silence.

3. Sharing:

- a) what do the heavens and stars evoke in you?
- b) speak to one another, without being overly personal or revealing privacy matters, about your hopes, longings, and yearnings for you and your family and our world
- c) what are your plans for this Christmas? how to prepare joy and peace in the midst of this isolation.

Seven minutes of sharing.

4. Closing Prayer:

“Jesus, come to us to fulfill our hopes”

5. Sing the Hymn.