

Prayer:

Lord, the darkness is upon us, the longest night is near -
we are waiting - we are waiting
**We are waiting for the coming
of the One who is our Saviour.**
We await Your coming, Lord,
The Lord of all seasons - The Lord of all life.
Maranatha - come, Lord Jesus, come.

Taizé Chants:

*'Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us,
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, ... let my heart always welcome your love.'*

*'Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
The deepest night is clear as the daylight.'*

*'Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name,
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.'*

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***'Love and Mindfulness
already see
on the barest Trees
the blossoming Dreams
of the coming Spring.'***

From Japan

Some of the prayers are taken from
or inspired by

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Meditative Evening Prayer

Wednesday 9 December 2020

'The barest Trees'



A Parable of Hope

1ST PART

Welcome and Introduction

*'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.'* (Taizé)

Opening Responses: A Celtic Prayer for Advent

Days of heavy clouds stifling the sunlight,
the world burdened by greyness and gloom
**Open our eyes, Lord, to the coming of your light
lifting the burden of darkness from our lives.**

Chillness that seeps deep into bones
hearts and spirits rigid with frost- hardness
souls wrapped up against coldness and loneliness.
**Open our souls, Lord, to the warmth of your coming
melting the hardness
that keeps us from you and from each other.**

Trees - branches bare against the steel skies
stems crumpled under weight of frost - weight of snow
last year's leaves - blackened and slippery underfoot -
nature oppressed by wintriness -
yet resting - awaiting rebirth.
**Cherish our hearts, Lord, oppressed by wintriness -
assure us of your coming, of your call to new life.**

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Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-4

"Let the desert and the dry lands be glad, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom; like the asphodel, let it burst into flower, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; then they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to the faint-hearted, 'Be strong! Do not be afraid. Here is your God, who is coming to save you.'"

A few thoughts on the readings

**'Silent, surrendered, calm and still,
Open to the word of God,
Heart humbled to his will,
Offered is the servant of God.'**
Margaret Rizza

*A time of
silent reflection*



2ND PART

**'Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, that never dies away.'** Taizé

Thanksgiving and Intercessions:

**'O Lord, listen to my prayer,
My prayer as I call to you.'**
Margaret Rizza

Lord's Prayer