

Darkness *and* Light

We are very familiar with using the image of light when talking about God but the Hebrew Scriptures contain many images of God residing in the darkness. (Genesis 1:2; Deuteronomy 5: 23 – 24; 2 Samuel 22: 10, 12; Job 23: 17; Job 38: 8 – 9; Ps 97: 1 - 2; Ps 104; Isaiah 45: 3; Amos 4: 13; Amos 5 : 8; Amos 5: 18; Mark 15: 33) As we drew near to advent we decided we wanted to reclaim many of the negative images of darkness that appear in the traditional advent readings and focus on the positive images of darkness.

Having reclaimed the dark, so to speak, we then returned to the image of light and realised that of course you cannot have light without dark or dark without light. So this call to worship celebrates the presence of God in the darkness and in the dawning of the light.

Darkness,
deep, dark,
velvety darkness,
inky, pitch black
all encompassing
chaos,
whirling, swirling,
stormy, whispering
mystery,
within which God broods.

Stars,
pin-pricks of light,
penetrating the darkness,
light years away,
trace of that
which was,
shining, twinkling,
solitary, glowing,
magical,
within which God dreams.

Dawn,
mere hint of light
peeping over the horizon,
the golden glow of sunrise,
filtering through the
blanket of the dark,
soft, clear blue light
bringing to form,
revelation,
God speaks.

Daybreak,
cascading light
bringing the cityscape,
out from shadow
into crisp focus
warm, enlivening
awakening plants, animals
and human life

incarnation,
God calls.

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