



We light a light

*In the name of God who creates life
In the name of the Savior who loves life
In the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life*

Silent Reflection ~

*...she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
~Luke 1:40*

You hardly knew
How hungry you were to be gathered in,
to receive the welcome that invited you to enter entirely –
nothing of you found foreign or strange,
nothing of your life that you were asked to leave behind
or to carry in silence or in shame.

Tentative steps became settling in,
leaning into the blessing that enfolds you,
taking your place in the circle
that stunned you with its unimagined grace.

You began to breathe again,
to move without fear,
to speak with abandon
the words you carried in your bones,
that echoed in your being.

You learned to sing.

But the deal with this blessing is that it will not leave you alone,
will not let you linger in safety, in stasis.

The time will come
when this blessing will ask you to leave,
not because it has tired of you
but because it desires for you to become
the sanctuary that you have found –
to speak your word into the world,
to tell what you have heard with your own ears,
seen with your own eyes,
known in your own heart:

That you are beloved, precious child of God,
beautiful to behold,
and you are welcome
and more than welcome
here.

~Jan Richardson, A Blessing Called Sanctuary

... Please turn over

Silent Reflection ~

It's nearly Christmas, God,
the shops and streets are buzzing.
Thank you for this time and space to think and pray.

Be with children everywhere, God,
and with their parents:
those who are in danger, those who are hungry, those who are happy and well-fed.
Loving God, be their hope and strength.

Be with those for whom Christmas is a hard time, a sad time ...
Bless them with who and what they need,
and prompt us to be loving and caring.
Loving God, be their hope and strength.

We pray for those who are sick,
for those who are dying
and those who are being born,
and for all who care for them.
We pray for those who are longing for good news.
Loving God, be their hope and strength.

We pray for ourselves, our hopes, our needs, our dreams.
Let your face shine on us, God,
on us and on all your world. Amen

~ Ruth Burgess

Closing Silent Reflection ~

Song playlist on Spotify "Advent Contemplative" by Ninabeth Metcalf