

the QUIET collection



for Christmas

Day 1: Sent

Jesus shouted to the crowds, “If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God, who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. I have come as a light to shine in this dark world so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.”

– John 12:44–46

This is the word of the Lord. It is absolutely true, and given to us in love.

These words from John 12 were the last words Jesus spoke in public. Everything after this was said either behind closed doors among his closest friends and disciples, beneath the olive trees in the garden when he was captured by Roman soldiers, or they were words he spoke as he hung dying on the cross. But the final time the public saw him among the crowds, before his arrest and crucifixion, they heard him speaking, shouting about trust, about legacy, about God, and darkness and light.

If Jesus’ life were a day, these were the words he spoke at twilight in the gloaming hour, as the sun set on his earthly life, but the deepest darkness had not yet fully come. As he moved away from the crowds in this moment of twilight, he cried out with a loud voice to be sure they knew, “Someone sent me.”

Advent is a time of holding communal space for preparing room in our hearts for Christ to be born in us. Christ who did not only come, but who was sent. What difference does it make, the sending? Maybe because after this year of devastating loss, of heartbreak, of fires and floods, of tears that won’t stop flowing in a continuation of not knowing when relief will come, maybe we need to remember that God has not forgotten. That God is still active. That God doesn’t just judge and rule from a distance, but as one who comes near with compassion, intention and love.

Jesus came into the body of Mary not as independent of the Trinity. Jesus came to us from his father in complete harmony with the spirit, to make a way for all things to be new, all hope to be realized, all justice to be served, all wounds to be healed, all hearts to be mended.

To receive something sent, there has to be a sender. There was, and there is. God is still sending today. As we walk through the gloaming hours of this year, as the final months come to a close, as we make room to remember the beginning of the life of Christ on earth, what comfort might there be for you as you reflect on the words Jesus spoke at the end? Where in your life today do you need to know God as sender?

What form of help and hope do you need to see today? Jesus summed it all up when he cried out, “Whoever believes in me believes not just in me, but in the one who sent me. Whoever looks at me is looking in fact at the one who sent me. I am light that has come into the world so that all who believe in me won’t have to stay any longer in the dark.” This is the word of the Lord. It is absolutely true, and given to us in love. Thanks be to God.