

bring us back to the true meaning of the season and encourage us to ask questions. Does our faith enlighten our lives? Or the lives of others?

Christingle

ORANGE
the world

RED TAPE
God's love for the world



CANDLE
Jesus - he shows us what God is like

4 COCKTAIL STICKS
4 corners of the world

SWEETS
the good gifts God gives us

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-Sue Wilson

Picture from public domain

Entrance antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

Psalms 145: Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

Second Reading: James 5: 7-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Third Sunday of Advent Cycle A, 2022 Weekly Reflection

Advent continued: Light itself is a powerful symbol in Advent as well as at Christmas. It is no accident that other faiths also have festivals of light at this, the darkest time of

year. Diwali in Hinduism, celebrates return of the hero Rama and his wife Sita to their kingdom, having defeated the wicked Ravana. It is a celebration of the victory of good over evil marked by the lighting of 'diyas' or small lamps. (24th October this year)

Hannukah, in the Jewish faith, which falls in the Hebrew calendar on the date of 25 Kislev, (18th-26th December this year) celebrates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend the Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. It recalls how the light in the Temple miraculously stayed lit for eight days, even though there was only enough oil for one or two.

The power of light communicates to us all at a very primal level. We feel less safe in total darkness. Darkness hides evil deeds, whereas light allows us to find our way. Hence Jesus is referred to as the light of the world, because his life and teachings show us the way to God. We feel safer when we see light. Lights suggest presence. The sanctuary light also expresses this idea- the presence of God. "Let there be light" the first of God's creations Genesis 1:3. 'Light at the end of a tunnel', 'a glimmer of hope; 'a lightbulb moment' 'the cold light of day'- the language of light permeates our thinking and light helps us to express our deepest longings and prayers, as can be seen in the lighting of votive candles, even by those without a conventional faith.

The symbolism of light is also seen in the tradition of Christingle. The candle stands for Jesus, the orange represents the world, the red ribbon the blood of Christ and God's love for the world; the sweets or fruits on sticks, remind us of the gifts of God in our world. In the orgy of consumerism which often marks Advent in the western secular world, reflecting on these symbols can