

# Deepening Circle

As we experience the ending of the world we've known,  
the world of modernity and unlimited progress,  
how do we build a new world--  
one that's currently unimaginable?

What response can WE make?

For dialogue and contemplation

Advent & Christmas, 2024



## Darkness is where incarnation begins.

Jan Richardson

The gorgeous texts of Advent and Christmas shimmer with the light that God brings into our midst, as in the prologue to John's Gospel: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Yet if we lean too quickly toward the light, we miss seeing one of the greatest gifts this season has to offer us: that the deepest darkness is the place where God comes to us.

In the womb, in the night, in the dreaming; when we are lost, when our world has come undone, when we cannot see the next step on the path; in all the darkness that attends our life, whether hopeful darkness or horrendous, God meets us in the stillness of our deep Self.

God's first priority is not to do away with the dark but to be present to us in it. "I will give you the treasures of darkness," God says in Isaiah 45:3, "and riches hidden in secret places."

For the Christ who was born two millennia ago, **for the Christ who seeks to be born in us this day**, the darkness is where incarnation begins.

***Can we imagine the darkness as a place where God meets us—and not only meets us, but asks to take form in this world through us?***

In the midst of the deepest darkness, Christ is with us--present, staying with, spending time. When a person is with another something is taking place--something potentially enormous. When Christ is with us, he is not just there--an exchange of energy is taking place with huge consequences: Christ is becoming human and the human person is becoming divine. We are becoming divine! We are taken beyond our own threshold and into God.

(adapted from John of the Cross, **Romances**)

## Transformational practices:

In your prayer and many times a day, ground yourself in your Center. Practice wordless stillness often--even for a few minutes.

In conversation, listen with less judgment in the sense of right or wrong and more with curiosity and awareness. In relationship, be aware of the interpersonal field between you and another.

Even in the dark of this life, even there, especially there, You are radiant and meet me in my Center to transform me in your loving light. Meister Eckhart

deepeningcircle.com

Margie Thompson, SSJ

