

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

“When this old world drew on toward night, you came;
But not in splendor bright, not as a monarch,
But the child of Mary, blessed mother mild.”
- ELW #245 Creator of the Stars of Night, verse 2

How often have we heard it said that “God acts in mysterious ways”? We also hear that “God is doing a new thing, do you perceive it”? The mystery of God’s action is often hard to perceive. As the whole gospel stories of Jesus’ life and ministry relate that even his closest companions, the apostles, seem to find it so hard to understand what he was about. God’s mysterious action comes as “this old world drew on toward night.” Night is symbolic in a number of ways. It is a time of fear, darkness, uncertainty, danger, and represents separation from God. Walking in the light, on the other hand, is to know and see God’s presence and care at your side, his love always upholding you. So as the old world drew on closer and closer to the night and what it represents, God acts in a new and mysterious way. He is sending his “light of the world” into the night, not in the form of sunshine, but in an entirely new way, a child, a human being. Someone who can actually walk by our side and be our light, even in our darkest valleys. The incarnation is the creation of light in a completely new and mysterious way. Is it any wonder that we celebrate the incarnation at that season of the year when the night is longest but when the day, the light, begins to dawn more and more. The Child is coming who will be the light of the world. It is a mysterious and new thing God is doing. Open your eyes, and your hearts, hear the joy, feel the love, and you will perceive it and be blessed.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we wait in the night once more for your coming light. Shine your light on our night-plagued world and in our often darkened and fearful hearts, that we may be encouraged by your love and peace and joy. Amen

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