
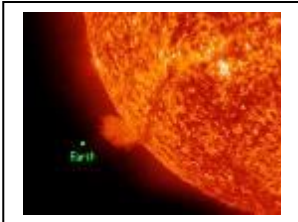







(The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>First Sunday of Advent: First Light</p> <p>. . . the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. . . . Rom. 13:12</p> <p>To better understand Light, we need, first, simple awareness. Electricity deprives us of an experience that billions of humans back through time have shared: gazing in awe at the Milky Way Galaxy, our home. People in cities do not have ample darkness to see the sweep of stars; some have never seen them! If you can remember when you first noticed the stars — or a memorable sighting.</p>  <p>More recently, scientists have learned that the observable universe began between 13 and 14 billion years ago, probably a single immense energy event. Within our expanding universe with its billions of galaxies is our Milky Way Galaxy. Within this galaxy is our solar system, and within it is our Sun, a star about a million times the size of Earth. It is one of the trillions of stars in one of the billions of galaxies in an intrinsically interconnected universe.</p> <p><i>"The spectacular truth encoded in your DNA is that the very atoms of your body were initially forged in long-dead stars. This is why, when we look at the sky with wonder and longing, we feel some ineffable tugging at our innards. We are star stuff." Neil de Grasse Tyson</i></p> <p>Each second our Sun gives part of itself to become energy that we eat at each meal and use for energy; it is reborn as the vitality of Earth. For millions of years, humans and other creatures have been basking in its warmth and feasting on its energy stored in the form of seeds, nuts, and berries. The actual energy coursing through our circulatory and nervous systems was bestowed upon us by the Sun.</p> <p>Take a moment to study this image of Earth in relation to our Sun. As Earth rotates, Sun remains relatively steady, and we realize that current knowledge causes the terms "sunrise" and "sunset" to be outdated and misleading.</p>  <p>According to Neil Douglas-Klotz, "heaven" in Aramaic is not a place, but the image of "the light and sound shining through all creation." How might that affect the "where" of God? Many poets have connected light with divinity</p> <p>Below is a segment of "Choruses from The Rock," T. S. Eliot's reflection about light.</p> <p><i>O Light Invisible, we praise Thee! Too bright for mortal vision. O Greater Light, we praise Thee for the less: The eastern light our spires touch at morning, The light that slants on our western doors at evening, The twilight over stagnant pools at batflight, Moon light and star light, owl and moth light, Glow-worm glowlight on a grassblade. O Light Invisible, we worship Thee!</i></p> <p>Taken from Advent 2019 - In Praise of Light https://ecospiritualityresources.com</p>
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<p>Monday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>COP25</p> <p>The 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP25, which was to be held in Chile, will now be held in Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 13 December 2019 under the presidency of the Chilean government. Chile withdrew from hosting the meeting due to the difficult civil unrest situation that the country is experiencing at present.</p>  <p>Diplomats, politicians and representatives of civil society will define steps for the practical implementation of the climate protection goals.</p> <p>This will be a key conference, given the fact that in 2018 fossil fuel and industrial emissions are expected to grow by 2.7%, the fastest increase in 7 years.</p> <p>This COP will also be a particularly difficult one, as some countries questioned the results of one of the most impactful and resonant reports about climate change ever published; the IPCC 1.5 report and was indeed a source of tension at COP24.. Debates will become more difficult as the timeline advances, and the impact of climate change is more evident.</p> <p>The topic of loss and damage from human-induced climate change has been a highly politically sensitive issue in international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for many years with vulnerable developing countries, including Bangladesh, arguing in its favour and the rich countries arguing against it.</p> <p>The 2019 conference will also be the last one before the 2020 deadline so arguments and demands will be heated.</p> <p><i>What can WE do? – saturate COP25 in prayer for direction, commitment, tolerance, understanding and broad-mindedness.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Love is the affinity which links and draws together the elements of the world... Love, in fact, is the agent of universal synthesis.</p> <p><i>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Flame Meditation</p> <p><i>A reflection on the Divine Dynamic, the relationship between humans, the Earth, and the creative power of the Universe.</i></p> <p>Sit reflectively in darkness for several minutes. Then light a candle.</p> <p><i>All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being through him was life and the life was the life of all people. John 1: 3</i></p> <p>Let the flame evoke the memory of the primordial creation event some billions of years ago, when out of a fertile nothingness a great fire billowed out in all directions. Our Universe was born then. God's Word was spoken there. The Divine Artist was at work there. It was an art show to surpass all art shows. We were being loved there.</p>  <p>Let the flame with its heat evoke within us the memory of the intense heat of a star that exploded some several billion years ago, giving birth to our sun and from the scraps of that birth our beautiful blue-green Earth. We were being loved there.</p> <p>Let the flame evoke within us a memory of Earth some four and a half billion years ago, when it was a lava-like fiery ball of molten rock in the sky that over time formed a crust upon which we stand today. We were being loved there.</p>

	<p>Let the flame evoke within us the memory of the earliest humans, who sat around their own fires and gazed into their own flickering flames while their shadows danced behind them on the cave walls. We were being loved there.</p> <p>Let the flame evoke with us the memory of that burning bush before which Moses stood, with his shoes off and his knees shaking, experiencing the Divine Dynamic calling him to the cutting edges of his life. We were being loved there.</p> <p>Let the flame evoke within us the memory of those fires on the hillsides and lakesides of Galilee, around which the rabbi Jesus sat instructing his disciples. We were being loved there.</p> <p>Let the flame evoke within us the memories of our ancestors who sat before their fireplaces, wood stoves, lanterns and candles while they dreamed great dreams for their children. We were being loved there.</p> <p>Let the flame make us aware of the fire that burns deep within us, a fire that embraces us with all our successes and failures, hopes and fears, joys and anxieties, good moments and not so good ones. It is a divine love that invites us to move confidently and creatively into our preferred future, the future of our Earth and the future of our whole Universe.</p> <p>Adapted from John Surette, SJ <i>Taken from Advent 2019 - In Praise of Light https://ecospiritualityresources.com</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>5</p> <p>International Soil Day</p> <p>Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future!</p> <p>The mandate of the GSP (Global Soil Partnership) is to improve governance of the limited soil resources of the planet in order to guarantee agriculturally productive soils for a food secure world, as well as support other essential ecosystem services, in accordance with the sovereign right of each State over its natural resources. In order to achieve its mandate, the GSP addresses five pillars of action to be implemented in collaboration with its regional soil partnerships.</p> <p>The 5 pillars of action http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/pillars-action/1-soil-management/en/</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity 2. Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soil 3. Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions 4. Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines 5. Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources <p>The Plan of Action calls for a systematic awareness raising campaign in all countries on how soil relates to people’s everyday lives. This can be done through brief and vivid messages, not only as part of the World Soil Day celebrations but also as a sustained long-term outreach and engagement programme. The Plan of Action recommends a significant increase in investments to support such actions.</p> <p>Prayer: <i>King of Heaven and Earth, we thank You for this soil, For the reminder that even the dirt beneath our feet shows the sign of Your resurrection, And that even the smallest creature is loved by You. Father, bless these worms that proclaim Your glory,</i></p> 

		<p><i>The bacteria, fungus, and insects that do Your work. Bless the soil they create, that it may nourish Your people And restore Your earth that we have degraded by our sin. Teach our hearts also to be fertile soil for Your Word, And bless us with the abundance of Your love, With fruit of the earth, seasonable weather, and great love for each other. Amen</i></p>
Friday	6	<p>Teach our hearts also to be fertile soil for Your Word, And bless us with the abundance of Your love, With fruit of the earth, seasonable weather, and great love for each other. Lord, teach my heart also to become fertile soil so that Your Word may grow in me and produce fruit of the Spirit. Amen</p>
Saturday	7	<p>Luke 8:4-15 The Message</p> <p>The Story of the Seeds</p> <p>⁴⁻⁸ As they went from town to town, a lot of people joined in and travelled along. He addressed them, using this story: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some of it fell on the road; it was tramped down and the birds ate it. Other seed fell in the gravel; it sprouted but withered because it didn’t have good roots. Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it. Other seed fell in rich earth and produced a bumper crop. “Are you listening to this? Really listening?” ⁹ His disciples asked, “Why did you tell this story?” ¹⁰ He said, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom—you know how it works. There are others who need stories. But even with stories some of them aren’t going to get it: Their eyes are open but don’t see a thing, Their ears are open but don’t hear a thing. ¹¹⁻¹² “This story is about some of those people. The seed is the Word of God. The seeds on the road are those who hear the Word, but no sooner do they hear it than the Devil snatches it from them so they won’t believe and be saved. ¹³ “The seeds in the gravel are those who hear with enthusiasm, but the enthusiasm doesn’t go very deep. It’s only another fad, and the moment there’s trouble it’s gone. ¹⁴ “And the seed that fell in the weeds—well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and having fun. ¹⁵ “But the seed in the good earth—these are the good-hearts who seize the Word and hold on no matter what, sticking with it until there’s a harvest.</p>



Sunday

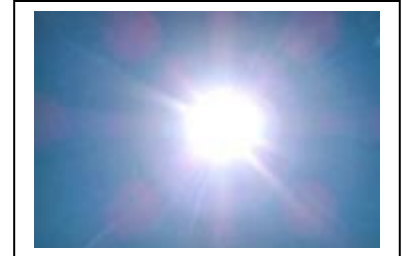
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Second Sunday of Advent: Christ Light

"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and lion and fattling together, and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

Light and fire have held mystery since the beginning of time. Fire has purified and made sacred. It has symbolized immortality, the Spirit of God, and a passionate love of life and people. Light has long been an important metaphor and title for Jesus. One Advent antiphon begins *"O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of Eternal Light, Sun of Justice . . ."* Many Christmas carols and hymns celebrate Jesus' presence as the one who gives light.

The "enfleshing" of divine light is called "Incarnation." Within our lifetimes, many sciences have shown how interconnected all life is. Theologians have realized that God's presence did not "come down" when Jesus was born but, rather, that divine presence is "enfleshed" in all creation. Jesus' history, as is true for each of us, is webbed with Earth's. The divine presence in Jesus is unique; Jesus brought a "quantum leap" in consciousness and compassion. Yet the divine is present in all life. Nothing, including Jesus' life, can be separated from the rest of creation; it all manifests divinity.



"The incarnation begins . . . with the very first act of God . . . the first creative moment of our world. The incarnation is a process moving through the history of our created world . . . We are finding out more about the incarnation than ever before." *Kenan B. Osborne, OFM*

"The divinity is so intimately present in the world that the world can be regarded as an incarnate expression of the Trinity, as creative, as expansive, as conscious, as self-realizing and self-sharing." *Beatrice Bruteau.*

"The energy of the earth in living plants and animals and human beings is unified by the Incarnate Word. Incarnation was not . . . an afterthought, but, rather, the ground and goal of the movement of the entire world process." *Albert. C. Fritsch, S. J.*



God and the world are not identical (pantheism), but "the world is immanent with, and present to, God even as God is immanent within, and present to, the world." *John Cobb*

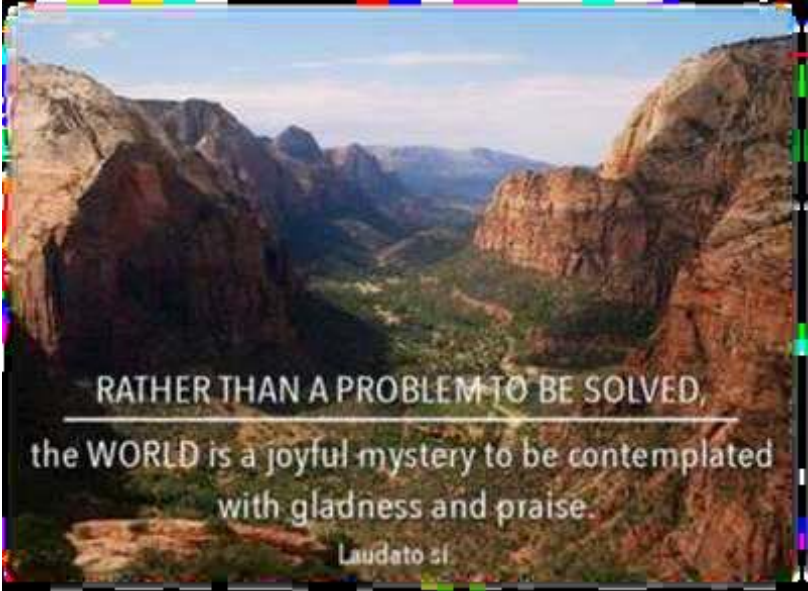

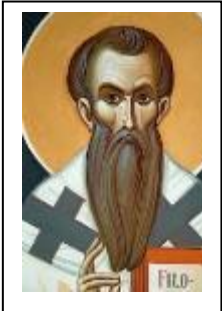
Sunlight helps banish dark moods (seasonal affective disorder). How might "basking" in the light of Jesus' life and lessons also brighten our moods? The light of Jesus' teaching and example in the Gospels caused a transformation in Earth's evolution. "We can finally see straight, see what we are doing, where we are going, and really see the faces of those who are making the journey with us. . . We can also see now what should not be done to others, what should not happen to animals and the earth. . . ." *Wendy Cotter, CSJ*

God lives and acts in us as well as in our entire world. God's covenant with all creation (Genesis 9: 9-11) requires our active participation in caring for our sacred Earth. Pope Francis tells us in *Laudato Si'* that Christians "need an 'ecological conversion,' whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them" (par. 217) [because] "each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us" (par. 221) Madeleine L'Engle has another insight on the meaning of incarnation: "To paint a picture or to write a story or to compose a song is an incarnational activity. The artist is a servant who is willing to be a birth giver. In a very real sense the artist should be like Mary who, when the angel told her that she was to bear the messiah, was obedient to the command. . . ."

How can your creativity extend the light of Christ?

Taken from Advent 2019 - In Praise of Light <https://ecospiritualityresources.com>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>... Empower me, Great God of Life, to fully live each day. To shape my share of radiant light with joyful care and tend the fires of your reflection everywhere.</p> <p><i>From "Matins," Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Psalm 121 The Message</p> <p>A Pilgrim Song</p> <p>¹⁻² I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains? No, my strength comes from GOD, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.</p> <p>³⁻⁴ He won't let you stumble, your Guardian God won't fall asleep. Not on your life! Israel's Guardian will never doze or sleep.</p> <p>⁵⁻⁶ GOD's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you— Shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moonstroke.</p> <p>⁷⁻⁸ GOD guards you from every evil, he guards your very life. He guards you when you leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always.</p> 
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>International Mountain Day</p> <p>The 2019 International Mountain Day's theme '<i>Mountains matter for Youth</i>' is a great opportunity for young generations to take the lead and request that mountains and mountain peoples become central in the national and international development agendas, receive more attention, investments and tailored research.</p> <p>Young people are active agents of change and the future leaders of tomorrow. They are custodians of mountains and of their natural resources, which are being threatened by climate change. The day is also an occasion to educate children about the role that mountains play in supporting billions up and downstream – by providing freshwater, clean energy, food and recreation</p> <p>Covering around 27 percent of the earth's land surface, mountains play a critical role in moving the world towards sustainable economic growth. Mountains provide for the freshwater needs of more than half of humanity, and are, in effect, the water towers of the world. ... Mountain ecosystems are important for biological diversity, particularly in the tropics and warmer temperate latitudes. Isolated mountain blocks are often rich in endemic species.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how you can encourage young people to become passionate about the world around them.</i></p> 

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>12</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>The COP25 Conference ends today</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the safety of all COP25 delegations as they return home. • Pray that agreements reached may be adhered to and honoured to the benefit of Our Common Home 
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>“A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”</p> <p>Saint Basil of Caesarea (4th century)</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Third Sunday of Advent: the Dark Side</p> <p><i>The Lord is my Light and my Salvation. - Ps. 27:1</i></p> <p><i>We have seen a great light. - Isaiah 9:1</i></p> <p>Darkness and light are complementary parts of creation. Life forms in the dark womb, most seeds grow in darkness, darkness facilitates sleep. Stars always shine, but we need darkness to see them. The Romans celebrated the coming of winter, when the sun's rays hit Earth obliquely in the Northern Hemisphere, on Dec. 25 (Julian Calendar). Think of aspects of our Christmas story that include the presence or absence of light.</p> <p>Pope Francis on darkness: “... humility ...requires ... leaders to allow room for God, to be familiar with the interior experience of darkness, of not knowing what to do.”</p> <p>“Dark offers not only fear and cold, confusion and loss, but also the quiet, calling us to the depths of our lives where we find new truths and clarity and above all, our loving God.” <i>Margaret Hickey, ND</i></p>

But, "If I pray for the light, I need to remember that light isn't sentimental. It illuminates the smiling infant and the wormy corpse, every broken promise and every act of faith." *Sy Safransky*

Carl Jung alerted us to positive and negative "shadow sides" within everyone. Somehow it seems easier to find dark shadows in others! What we dislike in others is sometimes a signal that the disliked aspects are in ourselves. "One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious. This procedure, however, is disagreeable and therefore not very popular." *Carl Jung*

Even organizations and countries have shadow sides. It is unpleasant to discover that qualities disliked in other countries and groups exist within our own groups and nation. It takes courage to face up to the gifts of the shadow and become increasingly enlightened. Surely this is the gift of the Light of Christ!

There is "real brokenness and darkness in human nature due to sin. Compulsive greed and chronic indifference are the two great obstacles to a healthy relationship with Creation." *Keith D. Warner, OFM*. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis lists current global problems and dares us "to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it." (par. 19)

The sun's ancient carbon (C) is stored in fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) that is converted to carbon dioxide (CO₂) when burned. Starting with the Industrial Revolution, amounts of CO₂ have

constantly risen. Excessive releasing of it by mining, manufacturing, transporting, and using fossil fuels harms all of creation (especially people living in poverty) by changing the balance of chemicals in our atmosphere. [Other factors also contribute to global warming.] Hydraulic fracturing of natural gas and mining tar sands threaten water as well as air and cause multiple problems. Even if spills, contamination of resources, political and noise pollution could be avoided, global warming is inevitably worsened by them. Don't let industry ads fool you!

Developing renewable energies provides new jobs, lessens climate change, lowers pollution, and prevents health problems that result from fossil fuel use. Transitioning to renewable energy sources — wind, sun, biomass — is now possible for individuals and groups. Conserving energy and making changes like using LED lights, also reduce carbon emissions. LEDs cost more initially, but they last longer and use less energy. Thus their true cost is less than incandescent bulbs.

Taken from *Advent 2019 - In Praise of Light*
<https://ecospiritualityresources.com>



Monday

16

The Christification of the Universe

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world. —John 6:51

Jesus the Christ did not talk in this truly shocking way (see John 6:60) so we could worship bread and wine. He came so that we would recognize his presence in all things, not just in the human body of Jesus, not just in the human body of God's people (1 Corinthians 12:12ff), but even in the nurturing elements of the earth, symbolized by the ubiquitous food of bread and wine (1 Corinthians 11:23ff), and therefore to the very edges of creation (Romans 8:19). The mystery that was made personal and specific in Jesus was revealed as the shape of the entire universe. What else could the universe be but "the body of God"? Think about it. The Incarnate One is the stand-in for "everything in heaven and everything on earth" (Ephesians 1:10). This is not a competing religious statement as much as a highly symbolic metaphysical plan "from the beginning," "from the foundation of the world" (see Ephesians 1).

God is not just saving people; God is saving all of creation. It is all "Real Presence." We could call it the primordial "Christification" or anointing of the universe at Creation. This is not pantheism (God is everything), but panentheism (God is *in* everything!). Such a central message of cosmic incarnation was never seriously taught in the Western, overly individualistic church, except by a few like Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), and Bonaventure (1221-1274). It was much more common in the Eastern Church, especially in early scholars and mystics like Maximus the Confessor, Gregory of Nyssa, and Symeon the New Theologian.

Inspired by the more contemporary mystic scientist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Franciscan sister and scientist Ilia Delio writes:

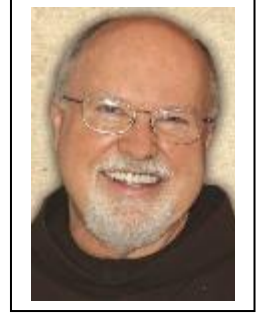
Christ invests himself organically within all creation, immersing himself in things, in the heart of matter, and thus unifying the world. The universe is physically impregnated to the very core of its matter by the influence of his superhuman nature. Everything is physically "christified," gathered up by the incarnate Word as nourishment that assimilates, transforms, and divinizes.

From the way we treat the planet, other humans, and sometimes even ourselves, it seems we don't understand or really believe this. When you *don't* recognize that the Christ Mystery is universal, that God is present in—and is saving—all of creation, you can choose what you respect and what you disrespect, what you love and what you hate. The full Gospel takes away from you any power to decide and discriminate where God is and where God isn't. The old Baltimore Catechism answered the sixteenth question, "Where is God?" quite clearly: "God is everywhere." But we never really believed it!


Gateway to Silence:

Brother Sun, Sister Moon, help me see God in all things.

From **Richard Rohr's** daily meditations
www.cac.org

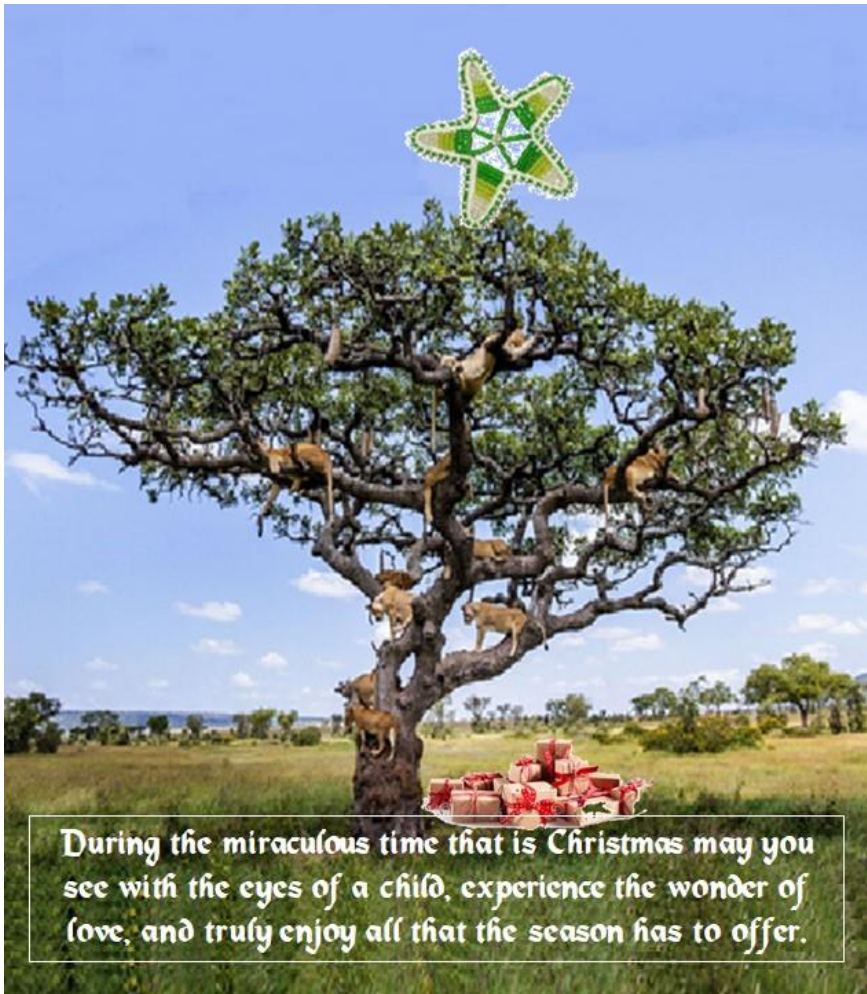



<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>Reflection: Pope Francis - Laudato Si</p> <p>1. "LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".</p> <p>Give thanks and praise to God for this magnificent Creation</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>18</p>	<div data-bbox="574 582 1348 1344" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another."</p> <p>Bishop Desmond Tutu</p> <div data-bbox="1236 1377 1492 1691" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>"One individual cannot possibly make a difference, alone. It is individual efforts, collectively, that makes a noticeable difference—all the difference in the world!"</p> <p>Dr. Jane Goodall <i>DBE, primatologist</i></p>

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>21</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>Fourth Week of Advent: Light Within</p> <p><i>Today a great light has come upon the Earth. Gospel Acclamation</i></p> <p><i>The Light shines in the darkness. . . .John 1:5</i></p> <p><i>You are the light of the world . . . Let your light shine . . . Matthew 5: 14, 16</i></p> <p>Gary Zukav: "The Light that flows through your system [and all living beings] is Universal Energy. It is the Light of the Universe. You [and every other creature] give Light form. What you feel, what you think, how you behave, what you value and how you live your life reflect the way you are shaping the Light that is flowing through you."</p> <p>Hildegard of Bingen, Rhineland mystic, wrote about 900 years ago: "There is no creature that does not have a radiance, be it greenness or seed, blossom or beauty. It could not be creation without it. If God had not the power to thus empower, the light to thus enlighten, where, then, would all creation be?"</p> <p>John Muir: "The sun does not shine on us, but in us."</p> <p>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ: "Throughout my whole life, during every minute of it, the world has been gradually lighting up and blazing before my eyes until it has come to surround me, entirely lit up from within." "Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."</p> <p>Thomas Merton: "At the centre of our being is a point of . . . nothingness and of absolute poverty. [It] is the pure glory of God in us . . . It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billion points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely."</p> <p>Rachel Naomi Remen, MD: "Every time anyone becomes more transparent to the light in them, they will restore the light in the world."</p> <p>As we celebrate the light of Christ, let us be appropriately awed by the realization that his light is within us. Light — our light — is needed to clarify genuine dangers to our interconnected Earth; our actions are needed to protect</p>

		<p>our common home and all of its inhabitants. What we do to improve the conditions listed by Pope Francis in Chapter Two of Laudato Si' contributes positively to the good of Earth's integral ecology. How can we connect our actions with the Light of Christ?</p> <p>Taken from Advent 2019 - In Praise of Light https://ecospiritualityresources.com</p>
Monday	23	<p>Loving Source of all light, may our thoughts find their way into words which have the weight of shadow to hold the layers of truth. May we never place our trust in minds claimed by empty light, where one-sided certainties are driven by false desire. When we look into our hearts, may our eyes have the kindness and reverence of candlelight. May we always find the light of Christ living and acting in us and in our world. Amen</p> <p>John O'Donohue</p>
Tuesday	24	<p>Candlelight Carol</p> <p>How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother? Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?</p> <p><i>Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo Angels are singing; the Christ child is born</i></p> <p>Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him Seraphim round him their vigil will keep Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep</p> <p><i>Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo Angels are singing; the Christ child is born</i></p> <p>Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation A child with his mother that first Christmas Day</p> <p><i>Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo Angels are singing; the Christ child is born</i></p> <p>John Rutter</p>



<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p>  <p>During the miraculous time that is Christmas may you see with the eyes of a child, experience the wonder of love, and truly enjoy all that the season has to offer.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of and care for your Creation.</p> <p><i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your Creatures as signs of your wondrous love.</p> <p><i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of Resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable.</p> <p><i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>“It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living.”</p> <p>David Attenborough</p> 

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>I thank You God for most this amazing day: for leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes.</p> <p><i>E.E. Cummings</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Dear God, Mommy says all babies cry, but I don't think baby Jesus did. You must know the answer, so please write back. We have a bet.</p> <p>ANGELINA</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>30</p>	<div data-bbox="612 757 1305 1272" data-label="Image"> <p>Creator God, you created the world and sent your own Son to live among us, made of the same stuff, breathing the same air, marvelling at sunrise and sunset just as we do. Help us to participate in the life around and within us as your life, as you living in us and we living in you and in each other. God of love and life, restore us to your peace, renew us through your power and teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home.</p> </div>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>As we look forward to a New Year, the Work of Christmas Begins</p> <p>When the carols have been stilled, When the star-topped tree is taken down, When family and friends are gone home, When we are back to our schedules The work of Christmas begins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To welcome the refugee, To heal a broken planet, To feed the hungry, To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear, To share our gifts, To seek justice and peace for all people, To bring Christ's light to the world. <p><i>Michael Dougherty</i> A variation on Howard Thurman's 'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'</p>