

Friday
December 18, 2020



Fire of Hope

I love the Christmas songs about the coming of the light. This year, especially, we need to hear about God's love and light. During this strange year of 2020, we have all walked in darkness in some fashion. We have suffered with the virus or we know people who have had the virus or lost people to the virus. We have lost our sense of security. We worry about the violence and our relationships with our neighbors. We have concerns about what the future will hold for our ability to earn a living or what our finances will look like. We worry about our family and friends who have lost businesses and jobs. We worry about the state of education and how our children and grandchildren will be affected by the lack of socialization, because they have worries of their own about our changing world. It's just too much darkness!

And yet, the message of Advent reminds us there is hope; there is light. "*Night of Silence*" is my favorite Christmas song. This song paints beautiful, haunting word pictures for me.

*"Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in darkness this cold winter night."*

I can identify with that! But that's not the end of the song.

*"Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,"*

"Breathless love awaits darkened souls." Can't you just feel God reaching out into our darkness? While the season of Advent reminds us that the Light is coming into whatever darkness we face, we know that the Light is already here. The Advent season of preparation gives us a chance to reflect on the miracle of what God has done because of His great love for us all. We can get lost in the darkness, but Christmas shines a light on our path. May we have the "Fire of Hope" in our hearts and souls so that we won't allow the darkness to control us. As Isaiah told us, *"The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

Lord, may we live as people who have seen that great light and may we be that light to others, rising together in the warmth of Your Son's love.

Night of Silence by Daniel Kantor

*Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, it's flame will be dying soon.*

*Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us You speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.*

*Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.*

Joyce Thacker