

# JUST Love

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND  
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH



How much, in December 2017, we need the season of Advent with its message of promise and hope. How much we need to kindle the sparks of Advent light in the gloom of our broken world. We devote our December issue of *JustLove* to images and readings that you can contemplate during the season of Advent. And please use the 2017 Advent calendar *They Shall Beat Their Swords into Plowshares* for suggestions for Advent action as well. [http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/Advent\\_Calendar\\_2017.pdf](http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/Advent_Calendar_2017.pdf)



Because of our experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place--until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.  
2 Peter 1:19

We are in a period of struggle with a movement spiritually deep and broadly connected – and a movement that knows it has to go deeper and broader yet. And we need to keep connecting across barriers of faith and ideology. The good news is that we have not collapsed or imploded with despair! Many of us understand that a deeper resistance is summoned of us. We are trying, praying, working to be strategic, to be faithful, to be human. And we know that we must keep at it:

conspire the next steps  
be in conversation  
be in community  
be in the streets  
refuse to fight  
disrupt business as usual  
prefer poetry to ideology  
pray for victims before nations.

The powers of death and destruction appear to reign. But they are undone. In short, dear friends: Be not awed by the mayhem with which the powers of this world would bamboozle us. When you light a candle let it mean intransigent resistance. When you pray imagine a new world is possible. And then live it.  
Elizabeth McAlister



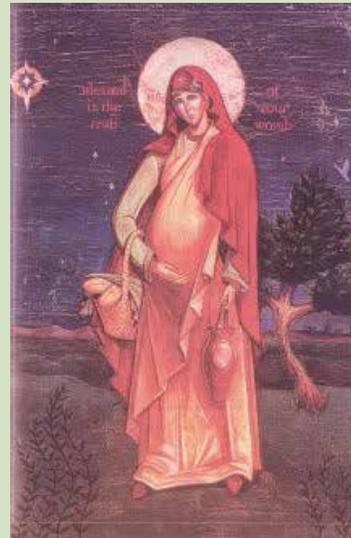


“In Mary-Darkness” by Jessica Powers

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary  
And on one night when a great star swings free  
From its high mooring and walks down the sky  
To be the dot above the Christus i,  
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.  
I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,  
With hope's expectance of nativity.  
I knew for long she carried me and fed me,  
Guarded and loved me, though I could not see,  
But only now, with inward jubilee,  
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:  
Someone is hidden in this dark with me.

A poem by Daniel Landinsky,  
inspired by John of the Cross

If you want  
the Virgin will come walking down the road  
pregnant with the holy,  
and say, “I need shelter for the night, please take me  
inside your heart, my time is so close.”  
Then, under the roof of your soul, you will witness  
the sublime intimacy,  
the divine, the Christ taking birth forever,  
as she grasps your hand for help,  
for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.  
Yet there, under the dome of your being  
does creation come into existence eternally,  
through your womb, dear pilgrim—  
the sacred womb in your soul,  
as God grasps our arms for help;  
for each of us is a beloved servant never far.  
If you want,  
the Virgin will come walking down the street  
pregnant with Light and sing ..



The Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth  
wishes you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, peace, and promise.