



REFLECTION

December 16, 2020

An oil lamp is a powerful metaphor of readiness. We become ready for closer union with God and with one another to the extent that the base our “wick” – the core of our being – remains submerged in the oil. And we become ready to give light in the world to the extent that the visible end of our “wick” stretches out into the world, sharing in all its hardships and concerns. As long as this is the case, the oil of God’s presence will rise steadily through our whole being and turn into our own kind of light for the world. If his connection is broken, our light will flicker and fail. The process is silent and unseen. God rises through our living in ways we cannot perceive or understand. And each of us must find our own way both of staying immersed in the oil and of being present to the concerns of the world. We stay in the oil through the practice of prayer, whatever form that may take. We burn in the world through the nurturing of deep and loving relationships with other people and with all creation, and through our striving for justice and peace. Without the oil of God’s constant presence there can be no flame of action in the visible world.



CLOSING PRAYER

December 16, 2020

God who is love, make yourself known to us in every moment of our lives, that we might appreciate you as you truly are, and learn to recognize you in the reflection of ourselves. Amen.

BLESSING

At the ending of the day,
in the darkness of the night,
in and beyond our senses,
let us know your presence, O God,
let us know your everlasting presence. Amen.

—*Sounds of the Eternal : A Celtic Psalter*



PRAYER INTERCESSIONS

December 16, 2020

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2. Help us to stay present to the concerns of the world.
3. Help the leaders of the world to strive for justice and peace.
4. Help us to be ready to receive you.



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