

#### **LIGHT YOUR LAMPS!**

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks."

**LUKE 12:35-36** 

#### Reflection

When I was a young girl, I participated with delight in the Girl Scout program offered at our school. From third grade through eighth grade, I attended meetings, went on field trips, worked to earn badges. All the while, I learned to be helpful, caring, and responsible. The Scouting motto was ingrained in me, "Be Prepared!" I took this to mean be adaptable, spontaneous, and courageous

with whatever life had to offer. These lessons have served me well, enabling me to roll with whatever came my way.

Today's gospel reveals Jesus urging his followers to have a similar attitude. They are to be gainfully engaged in their life and work, readying themselves for every circumstance as it arises. The image of having "lamps lighted" in anticipation for the "master's return" reflects an expectant attitude, waiting with anticipation, and warmhearted hospitality.

This is the life of people who "first belong to God," as urged by Pope Francis. Eyes alert for the presence of God. Ears attentive to God's word within and among us. Sleeves rolled up in persistent service in the manner of Jesus. Hearts alert for all that is of God. Let us be faithful heralds with lamps lighted, revealing the presence and the love of God in our midst. Are you ready? God is already knocking.



Lighted Kerosene Lamp Photo by Ihsan Adityawarman

## **For Pondering**

# Ask yourself:

- How alert am I to God's abiding presence?
- Who and what reveals God with me?

• How does my heart and soul experience expectant longing for God and God's ways?

#### **For Prayer**

"Here I am, Loving and Gracious God, I come to do your will." (Psalm 40)

Strengthen my faith, deepen my relationship with you that I might be a lamp illuminating the way home to you. I pray to be faithful to all the graces you have given me, so I might reveal your love and presence by the way I live.

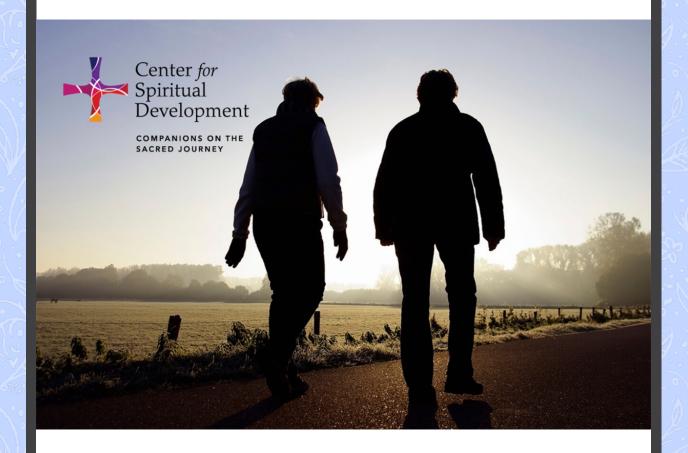
May your light of love and presence shine forth in all my living, doing, feeling, and presence. Amen!

You are the Light in the darkness of this world.

Amen.

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