

## Centering

Today is the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. Which means it is also the day that holds the most darkness. And for us it is also the day in our Advent journey when the light comes into its full measure. Ancient people called this day “the birthday of the unconquered sun.” Hope and light are just about to break over us. The darkness has not defeated the light. It never has.

And so, on this day we see darkness and light right up alongside each other, in Daniel Berrigan’s *Advent Credo*:

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss.  
**This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, so that whoever believes in him will know: you shall not perish, but have everlasting life.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction.

**This is true: I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever.

**This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, prince of peace.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church, before we can be peacemakers.

**This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions and your old people shall dream dreams.**

What is the word of light God speaks into your darkness this day?

In silence, let yourself hear it.

Your night has already reached its greatest length. It can come no farther; now it begins to withdraw. The beams of light are already more visible. We see it; we know it: Jesus the Christ comes, with joy, with faith, with courage, to be light—to be *life*—to the world.