

SET AFLAME AT CHRISTMAS #3

Kenny Luck

Adventus (latin): "come"

Advent: a season of active wanting and watching, looking and longing, inviting Christ to come once more into my life and come into the world I live in.

"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine." Isaiah 9:2 NLT

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

ADVENT PRAYER OF GOD'S MAN:

“ _____ ”

"What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it."

Acts 4:16 NIV

SET AFLAME AT CHRISTMAS = MOVING TOWARD RELATIONSHIP

"God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this."

Titus 3:7 MSG

GOD _____ .

"God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all." Romans 8:3 MSG

GOD _____ .

"He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion." Philippians 2:6-7 MSG

GOD _____.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” *Matthew 11:28-30 MSG*

“I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” *John 10:9-10 MSG*

GOD _____.

“When God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior with him and given us back our lives. And there’s more life to come—an eternity of life!” *Titus 3:4-7 MSG*

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” *2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV*

A Christmas Invitation to Imitation

“Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.” *Ephesians 5:1-2 MSG*

Heavenly Father... thank you for what Christmas shows me about you so that I can be like you. You moved toward relationship - seeing people walking in darkness and helping them to see a great light. My prayer to you right now is to set me aflame so that people may see you in me. Manifest your light and your love clearly through me. Prompt me by your Spirit to move toward people not away. Empower me to leave comfort and familiarity of where I am used to being for the beautiful discomfort of where I am called to be for you. Transform me from holding onto to things into a person that is supernaturally and abundantly generous like you. Thank you for modeling how to live out what Christmas truly is! Amen.