

## December 22

### **I Thessalonians 5:4-5 (CEB)**

*But you aren't in darkness, brothers, and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief.<sup>5</sup> All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness.*

Two poems by Ann Weems in *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

### ***TOWARD THE LIGHT***

Too often our answer to the darkness  
    is not running toward Bethlehem  
        but running away.  
We ought to know by now that we can't see  
    where we're going in the dark.  
Running away is rampant...  
    separation is stylish:  
        separation from mates, from friends, from self.  
Run and tranquilize,  
    don't talk about it,  
        avoid.  
Run away and join the army  
    of those who have already run away.  
When are we going to learn that Christmas Peace  
    comes only when we turn and face the darkness?  
Only then will we be able to see  
    *the Light of the World.*

### ***GODBURST***

When the Holy Child is born into our hearts  
    there is a rain of stars  
        a rushing of angels  
            a blaze of candles  
    this God burst into our lives.  
Love is running through the streets.