

Reader Six:

Give your justice to the nations and their leaders, and give your mercy to all whose decisions affect the peace and well-being of the world. Where we have power ourselves, open our ears to the cries of the weak, the poor, and the needy and open our hearts to answer their call. Show us your child, O God.

All: For we walk together in hope.

Reader Seven:

Bless our school communities that in your light we may each become both a teacher and learner of your hope, faith, joy and love. Show us your Child, O God.

All: For we walk together in love.

Reader Eight:

Have mercy on those among us who journey in sickness, fear, or any kind of trouble. Meet them on your road with rest, peace, and good cheer (pause in silence for those with pain or sickness in body or spirit) Show us your child, O God.

All: For we walk together side by side.

Reader Nine:

We remember those who have died (*pause for Silence, for the dead*). Your star goes before them. Show them your child, O God.

All: For they have traveled far to be with you.

Pause for spontaneous prayer petitions

Reader Ten:

Dear God, with longing and thanksgiving, knowing that you hold this world and all its children dear in your heart, we pray this day for grace to receive your gifts, to lift up our eyes and look around, and to offer back those same gifts to you and your world, with love. Show us your child, O God.

All: For we observed a new star at its rising and have traveled far bearing gifts.

Closing Prayer

Reader Eleven:

To the road on which we travel, our companion along the way, and our journey's end, we pray these words in love and confidence in faith:

All:

Lord Jesus may your light shine our way,
as once it guided the steps of the magi:
That we too may be led into the presence
to worship you,
the child of Mary,
the word of the father,
the king of nations,
the savior of mankind;
to whom glory be given forever.

Amen.

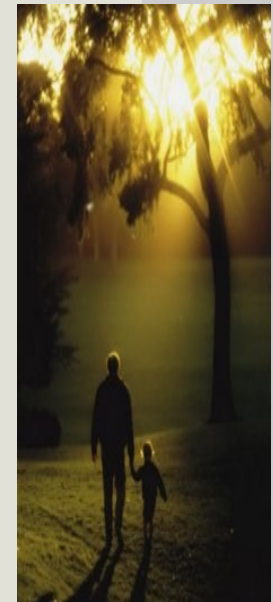


January 2012

**God steadfastly
accompanies us
on our journey.**

**HOLD
FIRM
...TRUST**

***Epiphany -
For we walk
with Jesus***



Introduction

Reader One:

Heavenly Father, at times this part of year gets dreary. The left overs of tinsel cling to our discarded Christmas trees at curbsides and we are reminded that nothing in this life lasts forever. As we begin a new year, we remind ourselves that we are here to build your kingdom in our daily lives with enthusiasm and hope.

All:

O Lord our God, with a new year now upon us, you continue to call us to be your hands, your feet, and your heart. We pray that we are always examples of Jesus' love. Guide us, as we walk with you to do your good works through this New Year.

Preparation

Prepare a visual image of the Wise Men (photo; object or power point) for a background to your prayer space (bible, candle & prayer cloth)

Opening Prayer

Reader Two:

We praise you, faithful father; you created us in love. We thank you, Lord Jesus; you humbled yourself that we might have everlasting life. We ask you, Holy Spirit, for your wisdom to use our time, energies, and talents wisely, trusting in you as the Wise Men once did on their journey..



Reader Three:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people of Israel."

Reader Three:

The word of the Lord.

All:

Thanks to be God.

Symbolic Action & Prayer

Prayer of the People for Epiphany

Reader Four:

Bathed in starlight, we pray together to the One who created all things, saying show us your child, O God.

All: For we observed a new star at its rising and have traveled far, bearing gifts.

Reader Five:

Make your wisdom in its variety known through all faithful people, give your holy church grace to bear the gifts of truth. Show us your child, O God.

All: For we ail together in faith.



Scripture reading:

Matthew 2: 1-6

The visit of the Wise Men