

Trinity UMC Worship at Home
Sunday, January 8, 2017

Scripture:

Isaiah 60: 1-3

*Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.*

² *Though darkness covers the earth
and gloom the nations,
the Lord will shine upon you;*

God's glory will appear over you.

³ *Nations will come to your light
and kings to your dawning radiance.*

Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Reflection:

Those who had followed a star for thousands of miles got a bit off track close to their destination when they stopped to consult with Herod. Their stop in Jerusalem did not deter them on their quest though, as they returned to the dark, the star was again visible, showing the way.

When I think of that guiding light, I think about the people in my life who have been beacons of light when I have stumbled, or doubted, or simply got lost. Some of those guiding lights have been teachers through the books I have read, some have been artists, and some have been dear friends who were brave enough to share their own life experiences that helped to guide me.

Spend the time you would have been in church on Sunday morning to write a thank you note to a person who has been a guiding light for you.

Question: What words, images, or conversations have been guiding lights for you this past year?

Prayer by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Unfolding Light

*God of truth, open my eyes to your light
and give me faith to follow,
to seek signs of your grace, to notice,
in nature, in dreams, in people.
Give me devotion to seek your presence,
to come close to you, to draw near.
Give me faith to forsake all else that glitters
and follow the light of your love alone.
Give me resolve to leave the familiar
and make of my life a holy pilgrimage.
Give me humility to ask directions,
to seek help from other seekers.
Give me steadfastness to seek and not turn back,
despite challenges of distance and strangeness.
Give me courage to stand against Empire
and its desire to use me.
Give me generosity to give of my gifts.
Give me insight to bow to holiness
in whomever I may see it.
Give me wisdom and readiness to go by a new road.
God of love, may this day be a new life,
guided by the light of your presence,
led by wonder, trust and love. Amen.*