

Star Words for Epiphany

On Epiphany, we remember how a Star guided the Magi to the place where they found the Christ child. In keeping with their journey to move closer to Jesus, we invite you to join others in moving through the year with intention and in prayer.

Enclosed in the envelope with this message, you will find a paper star with a word printed on it. Beginning today and throughout the year, we invite you to reflect on the meaning of that word. Set your Star Word in a place where you and the members of your family will see it regularly – on a door you enter or exit frequently, on the fridge in your kitchen, on the desk next to your computer screen, or on the dashboard of your car. Notice the Word, reflect on it, and pay attention to where it shows up in your life. All year long.

Our faith tells us that God uses many ways to guide us and speak to us. But we also know how easy it is to miss God's presence in our day-to-day living. So allow the Star Word to be a lens through which you look and listen for God in your midst, both actively and in hindsight. How might it enable you to see and hear God in ways you haven't before?

As you begin, please know that there are no "star police." If you have received a word that has no appeal for you, but you would still like to participate in this practice, please choose another word, any word, that resonates more fully with where you are on your faith journey. While it may be interesting to consider how a particular word has arrived at your door and what the Spirit may be saying to you, we don't want you to feel stuck with something that doesn't seem like the right fit. If you need help choosing a new word, you are welcome to contact Chris or Pedro. They are holding 150 words for the congregation.

A year from now, we will reach out with opportunities for you to share with others the Star Word you received and how it has become meaningful to you over the days, months, and year.



The Stars are Brightly Shining by Catharine Woods

For now, we pray:

*God of Starlight,
there has always been something holy about stars.
We look for them. We wish upon them.
We map out their designs.
We enjoy seeing them streak across the sky on summer nights.
There has always been something holy about stars.
We know that. You know that.
The Magi knew that, too, as they looked for hope on the horizon.
We join them in this new year, asking that you would reveal to us in new ways
the signs of your grace.
Pour out a double portion of your Spirit on this Star Word,
so that this ordinary slip of paper might provide us a glimpse of something more,
both in extraordinary moments and ordinary occasions.
Be in the starlit nights and in our everyday lives.
Speak to us and help us to listen.
May the Star Word we have received be for us a way to keep watch for you
day by day,
as you guide us and illuminate our path as light always does.
And in a year from now, may we find ourselves here again with your word
centered in our hearts
and our mouths full of praise for the ways you have been present to us.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.*