

## Sunday Wonderings for January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Ahead of them, went the star  
that they had seen at its rising.*  
—Matthew 2.9

Morning star, lead me.  
Awaken me to your calling,  
to the Spirit's subtle showing.

I let go of my attachment  
to knowing the way  
and my fear of not knowing.

I listen for your whisper,  
I wait for your nudging,  
ready for my going.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
*Unfolding Light*



Blessings in this beginning new year. I pray your holiday celebrations held moments of joy that brought you close to those you love. As we watch the images of wildfires and hear of the devastation of homes and communities it is hard not to be taken back to our story. We know the depth of their loss, their fears and uncertainty. I invite you to hold the people of Los Angeles County in your hearts and prayers. May they be given shelter as we were given. May they know the generosity of strangers as they move like us through loss and heartache. May those who mourn be comforted and may God who weeps as we weep hold all in her arms.

For those who struggle with memories now triggered, do not be afraid to reach out to one another. We are not alone in our feelings and there is comfort in the presence of one another. Remember to show kindness to yourself. Everyday, do one thing that brings you joy. If you wish a visit, please reach out. I am available by phone, Zoom and in person here in Jasper.

Christmas is over, people are beginning to box up their Christmas decorations as they begin a new calendar year. For those who follow a pattern of faith, these days of holy celebration remind us of a different marking of time, that of Kairos. Kairos, those moments of God's inbreaking into our awareness. We begin the year with the knowledge that God is here with us, made known in God's beloved. Though the world seems chaotic and fearful, these moments remind us we are not alone, this is God's wondrous world.

On Sunday we celebrate the story of Jesus's baptism. It marks the first Sunday following the celebration of Epiphany that occurs on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This day is celebrated in the story of the Magi – also known as Three Kings or Three Wise Men - led by a star

to baby Jesus. They follow to celebrate the Christ child – the revelation of God’s own incarnate in the human baby Jesus. Epiphany means to reveal, or for something to be made manifest. Today we might speak of an epiphany as a sudden and new insight. We see things in a new way. This new understanding is revealed through the story of the visitors from the east. On January 6<sup>th</sup> we enter the Season of Epiphany which always begins with the story of Jesus' baptism on the following Sunday. We begin with the understanding the Jesus is God’s own beloved. We begin a new season with the invitation to follow our North Star to know God’s presence that is always with us.

You are invited to embrace a Kairos moment and join in community to worship together.

We gather from **1000 – 1100** at Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge in the education room on the second floor. For those who are not familiar, Alpine Summit is located at 509 Turret Street.

As we await the renewal of our whole community, for those who are unable to join in person you are invited to join virtually via Zoom using this weekly link. We gather as a community.

**Zoom Link:**

**Sundays at 1000.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83883676566?pwd=i2wsHSyqrujkBgWhhyZRz1sxMIZIcG.1>

Meeting ID: 838 8367 6566

Passcode: 287075

Christ has come to bring us joy. Be defiant and share this good news. This is Kairos time.

Blessings of new insights,

Rev. Linda McLaren