



The Dove

Newsletter of the Association of Christian Therapists-Region 21 January 2010

The Epiphany

“Manifestation” or “showing,” that’s what epiphany means. How is ACT a manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s work in our world? How are our lives a manifestation of Christ in our daily lives? These questions are provocative and a source for prayer and reflection.

When we worship, pray together or individually, because we are in Christ, we come as the Kings did, offering what we have and are. When we repent and receive the graces of our baptism and go out to serve we involve ourselves in Christ’ Baptism. We can hear

the voice of Our Father saying, “This is my beloved...”

When we listen to Jesus, trusting Him in our daily waiting and decisions, we link ourselves to epiphany.

In the coming weeks we see Jesus choosing His disciples, doing miracles and proclaiming who He is and why He has come into our world.

As we prepare for ACT’s Convention at the end of February, and support each other in prayer we are participating in Epiphany.

In this issue of “The Dove” here are some prayers and poems to aid our prayer during this holy season.

An Epiphany Season Prayer

By Dennis Bratcher

Father, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus the Christ, we who once were not your people but whom you chose to adopt as your people. As ancient Israel confessed long ago, we realize that it was not because of our own righteousness, or superior wisdom, or strength, or power, or numbers. It was simply because you loved us, and chose to show us that love in Jesus.

As you have accepted us when we did not deserve your love, help us to accept those whom we find it hard to love. Forgive us, O Lord, for any attitude that we harbor, on any level, sees ourselves as better or more righteous than others. Help us to remove the barriers of prejudice and to tear down the walls of bigotry, religious or social. O Lord,

help us realize that the walls that we erect for others only form our own prisons!

Fill us so full of your love that there is no more room for intolerance. As you have forgiven us much, enable us with your strength to forgive others even more. Enable us through your abiding Presence among us, communally and individually, to live our lives in a manner worthy of the Name we bear. May we, through your guidance and our faithful obedience, find new avenues in ways that we have not imagined of holding the Light of your love so that it may be a Light of revelation for all people.

Thank you for your love, praise you for your Gift, ask for your continued Presence with us, and bring these petitions in the name of your Son, who has truly revealed your heart. Amen

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Hymn words by Kathleen Thomerson

*I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.*

*In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the Light of the City of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness,
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.*

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

Isaiah (Christmas Liturgy)

In our world with sorrow, sickness, destruction and sin, we are the people who are called to bring His Light. We are to be people of hope.

Hope

By Dr. Shirley Cox

Hope invites me to ask her in.

I resist.

I tell her,

*“if I invite you in,
you’ll steal my resolve
and leave me defenseless.”*

*She says, “if you don’t let me in,
You’ll serve an empty god
and your heart will die.*

I answer,

*“can I not substitute
unceasing effort for hope?”*

“No,” she responds,

“you must substitute unceasing hope for effort.”

I ask,

“how do I get from here to there?”

She says,

*“believe that God
can sew hope in your heart
and breathe new life into you;
offer yourself to Him,
not your idea of yourself,
rather, His idea of you.”*

I reply,

“I offer me in Him to Him in me?”

She nods,

“exactly.”

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010 January 18-25

“Father, that they all may be one.”

The theme for the annual celebration of the this special week, announced by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian

Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches is taken from Luke's gospel Chapter 24 verse 48:

YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS.

Let us pray together, "Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your Son, We are all consecrated to you by our common baptism, make us one in the fullness of faith and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever." Amen.

Upcoming Events

All are welcome: January 17
Pre-Conference Day of Prayer,
facilitated by Juanita Meller Ph.D
11942 West Sunset Blvd Los
Angeles 1:00-5:00. Bring a dish
for potluck.

Save February 7
Day of Fellowship at Georgie
Rodiger's home: Theme:
Heart of the Wounded Healer.
Potluck at 1:00, teaching and
prayer.
Songs of praise and Communion
Service following at 5:00. (Dr.
Rodiger presiding)

Keep checking your email for
announcements of SEW groups,
prayer intentions and praise
reports.

