



Advent Labyrinth *Journey*



Walking a labyrinth during Advent provides a meaningful way to journey to Bethlehem. Included in this booklet are scripture verses and poems for each week, offered as a way to help you focus your attention as you move through the season. Space is available in the back of this booklet for reflections to be noted of your Advent labyrinth experience. Keep this labyrinth companion guide with you as you travel through Advent to Epiphany, allowing the season and the spirit to unfold within you. May peace surround you on your journey.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK THE LABYRINTH

IN THE CHAPEL *

Tuesdays 8:00 – 9:00 am and 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Thursdays 1:00 – 5:30 pm

LONGEST NIGHT WALK *

Walk the rope labyrinth on the front lawn, weather permitting.

Sunday, December 20th 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Candlelit walk from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

****Masks and physical distancing are required while walking the labyrinths.***

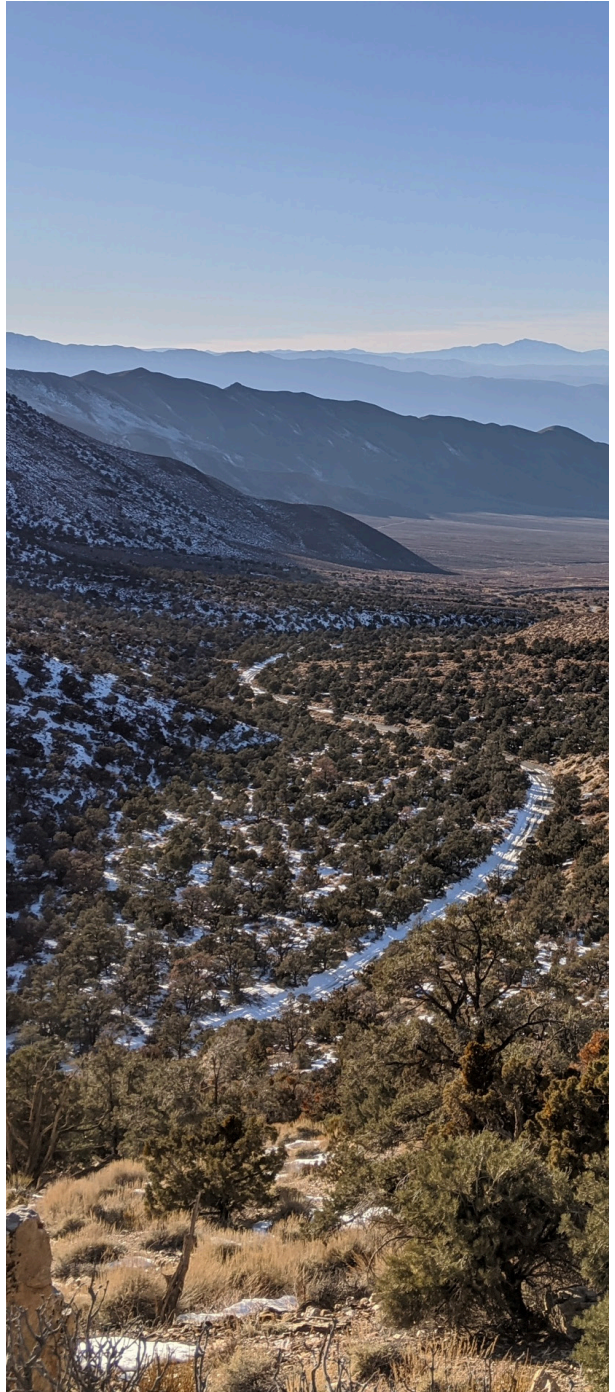


This booklet, surrounding labyrinth ministry, is offered to the glory of God by Anne Montgomery Schmid, Certified Labyrinth Facilitator. Photography by Andrew Schmid.

INVITATION

Not to one
but to many you have
called:
come
on the dancing wind
come
from the deepest forest
come
from the highest places
come
from the distant lands
come
from the edge of darkness
come
from the depth of fear
and become
the bearer of God.

- Jan L. Richardson
*Night Visions: Searching the
Shadows of Advent
and Christmas*



FIRST WEEK

HOPE

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40:11

IN DECEMBER DARKNESS

The whole world waits in December darkness
for a glimpse of the Light of God.
Even those who snarl “Humbug!”
and chase away the carolers
have been seen looking toward the skies.
The one who declared he never would forgive
has forgiven,
and those who left home
have returned,
and even wars are halted,
if briefly,
as the whole world looks starward.
In the December darkness
we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings
to announce the Hope of the World.

- Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

SECOND WEEK

PEACE

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:7

Into this climate of fear and
apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of
hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high
up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away
from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning
sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to
aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of
children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as
they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth.
Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in
dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half
heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers
strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are
thrilled by its presence
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true
Peace
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of
courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their
beloveds.

- Dr. Maya Angelou, *excerpt from
Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem*

THIRD WEEK

LOVE

*Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."
Luke 2:34-35*

FIRST COMING

God did not wait till the world was ready,
till...nations were at peace.
God came when the heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

God did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame, God came,
And God's light would not go out.

God came to a world that did not mesh
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
For to share our grief, touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

- Madeleine L'Engle

FOURTH WEEK

JOY

MARY'S SONG OF PRAISE

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Luke 1:46-55

Blessed Source of Joy
Carve out room in me for the
inexpressible delights of love.
I pause each day to whisper “thank you”
for the most ordinary grace and gift.
I open myself to the possibility of contentment
and zeal over life just as it is.

- Christine Valters Paintner

CHRISTMAS LIGHT

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:8-11

This night is the long night,
It will snow and it will drift,
White snow there will be till day,
White snow there will be till morn.

This night is the eve of the Great Nativity,
This night is born to us Mary's Son.
This night gleamed the sun of the mountains high,
This night gleamed sea and shore together.

Glowed to him wood and tree,
Glowed to him mount and sea,
Glowed to him land and plain,
When the foot of the Child had touched the earth.

Transcribed & translated by Alexander Carmichael, 1900



EPIPHANY

FAITH

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:10-13

NOW THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman



BENEDICTION

TO THE NEW YEAR

With what stillness at last
you appear in the valley
your first sunlight reaching down
to touch the tips of a few
high leaves that do not stir
as though they had not noticed
and did not know you at all
then the voice of a dove calls
from far away in itself
to the hush of the morning

so this is the sound of you
here and now whether or not
anyone hears it this is
where we have come with our age
our knowledge such as it is
and our hopes such as they are
invisible before us
untouched and still possible

- W.S. Merwin



REFLECTIONS AND NOTES

Image Locations

Cover Image: Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption - Verona, Italy

Page Three Image: Death Valley - California

Page Eight Image: St. Peter Cathedral - Regensburg, Germany

Page Nine Image: Arches National Park - Utah

Page Ten Image: Joshua Tree National Park - California



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