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WELCOME TO THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY !

OUR PARISH ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Carmen Raindancer, Cantor and Choir Member

I started singing when I was in elementary school. My music teacher at #35 School, Mr. Weiss, taught me the joys of how music can comfort one's heart. I sang in shows and listened to many different styles of music during that time. One day the church across the street was open and I walked in during a choir rehearsal, hearing the most beautiful music I ever heard! I discovered the time of their next rehearsal but didn't know what I was getting myself into. I was 14 years old, and Ginny Miller, the choir director, showed me hope and possibilities that still are playing out in my life. I have sung many styles of music, but I love sacred music the most.

I had an upbringing that was challenging, filled with people dealing with their own struggles. I was not allowed to go to choir unless the choir director drove me. They did not understand what it was to be light and joyful. But for me that first Christmas Eve Mass was powerful. I didn't want to leave!

This year was hard: the pandemic, losing our dog to cancer, being out of work, working from home, needing a new car. I had to sing to myself to find the comfort that music brings. I love singing in the shower, but would I sing in church again? The shutdowns made the year the first ever that we did not experience Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas in church. When I am in church, it always feels like home.

When we reopened, I returned to cantoring. It was a gift being with the Cathedral Community assembly again. I learned a wonderful new piece that took my breath away: "Broken for the Broken," by Chris de Silva. To me it conveys the struggles of our world and the need to be Christ to each other; it offers a deep, comforting hope. And while the choir cannot sing in person right now, some of us accepted an invitation to participate in the creche presentation (available on the website), recording "Table of Emmanuel" and "Silent night" from our homes.

The author Victor Hugo once wrote, "Go out in the world and work like money doesn't matter, sing as if no one is listening, love as if you have never been hurt, and dance as if no one is watching." I love to dance (sometimes these days in my yard); I sing with a deep love of God (so I know someone is listening). In the midst of pandemic turmoil, sadness, fear and challenge, at this Christmas season, let us rejoice and sing to God who gave us life and song in the first place!

Three outsiders who presumably knew nothing about God, come to pay God homage; the outsiders who recognize a light in the sky where life is to be found. These are the outsiders who follow that light at great expense and cost and time. These are the outsiders who stayed on the search.

The feast of the Epiphany is about the hiddenness of God's plan having been revealed to all, without discrimination. For Jews and Gentiles alike, God's love bursts forth like a light that pierces the darkness, like a child's squeals of delight when playing hide and seek and being found. There is no hiding from this wonderful gift as it reaches to the ends of the earth.

These visitors from an unknown land cause us to reflect on the gifts that come to us in hidden



ways from those we regard as strangers. Their manner of dress and unintelligible tongue immediately put us on our guard.

Those who are different from us are often a source of fear for us, but in Matthew's gospel they are friends, co-heirs to the promise, and the first to recognize the hidden plan of God.

Each of our families has a migration story, some recent, and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family, all called to live in solidarity with one another.

So as we begin a new year, let us challenge ourselves to be wise men and wise women. Let us journey with eyes searching to see the light, to see the truth, to see the love, to see the goodness — wherever it is found. Let this be the year we, like the wise men, are willing to go on the same kind of stretching and perilous journeys to find the God that is always present and freely given to all.

Last week we published the 50th edition of our parish on-line newsletter, "Welcome to the Cathedral Community." It began at the beginning of the COVID 19 Pandemic as an effort to keep in communication with our parish family when the Church was closed to worship. I am grateful for the team that has spent so much time preparing each issue: Rose Davis, Ginny Miller, Fr. Bob Kennedy, Lynda Dimitroff, Joe Muller, Dan Olean and Lynn Marra. It has been an important vehicle for sharing updates on the response of the parish to the Pandemic, especially in its liturgical celebrations. But it has also provided an opportunity to share the creative gifts of so many parishioners with thoughtful and reflective articles, stories and original poems. We hope to continue "Welcome to the Cathedral Community" when "normalcy" returns. I express my great gratitude to the team and the parishioners who have so generously shared their beautiful gifts with our community.

Christ's Peace...
Father Kevin

REFLECTION FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Joe Kelly

"Raise your eyes and look about.... Then you shall be radiant at what you see!" (Isaiah 60:1-6)

Can you imagine what a surprise it was for Mary and Joseph to look up and see the Magi approaching their child Jesus? What incredible gifts these visitors brought to honor the newborn infant!

Today let us raise our eyes beyond pandemic and look about at the beauty of our lives. We need to read "the signs of the times." And when we raise our eyes, we once more see Epiphany: we again see our God being made known to us in the shining gold of enduring love, the sweet aroma of the frankincense of friendship, and the healing myrrh of gentle care. These glimpses of God are what make us radiant with joy!