

## **Welcome to 2025!**

According to the google box: 30% of us make New Year's resolutions. Energetically make promises to ourself or with our family... [Please insert your own resolution here.]

It can be so easy to get caught up in the wishful thinking of eating less and walking more. (Can you guess my perennial resolution?) Only to get a better offer over lunch, week after week. Maybe you will read more, or spend more time with [fill in your favor-ite person]. Maybe you will save more money? Eat better? Reduce stress? All good plans.

But chances are many of these promises will fall away and our energy get hijacked. By February we are over it. This is a shared national joke.

In the church though, January is also the Season of Epiphany.

On January 6th, we celebrate The Magi who came to the manger and saw with their own eyes: God come to earth in the body of a child.

10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And hav-ing been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (Matthew 2:10-12)

In a moment the prophecies that guided them were met in this child and they were overwhelmed with joy. They experienced Epiphany.

According to Oxford Languages online: “ an epiphany is a sudden and striking realiza-tion, or a moment when you suddenly understand something important.” Part of that understanding was that they needed to leave by another road. The way that brought them there was no longer open. And so they stepped into a new world with eyes open to wonder and joy.

January is a time of new beginnings and continued preparation for the year to come. As the days lengthen and the light of Emmanuel (God with us) reaches deeper into our lives, we have a chance to be struck and suddenly understand important things.

I invite you to open your eyes to what God is revealing to you on your journey. What important things are you be struck by? What new understanding is waiting under the winter stars to brighten your way and your heart this new year? What roads are open-ing for you?

I look forward to sharing the wonders of this Season with you.

Peace,

Pr. Jeanie