



# 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

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*\*Masks and physical distancing are required while walking in the Chapel.*

### LONGEST NIGHT CANDLELIT WALK

*Walk the rope labyrinth in front of the Sheep and Shepherd statue,  
weather permitting.*

Tuesday, December 21st 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Candlelit walk 8:00 p.m.

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



# INVITATION

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light.  
To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight,  
and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings,  
and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.

—Wendell Berry



*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**

### AND THEN YOU

We arrange our lives as best we can,  
to keep your holiness at bay,  
with our pieties,  
our doctrines,  
our liturgies,  
our moralities,  
our secret ideologies,

Safe, virtuous, settled.

And then you ---

you and your dreams,  
you and your visions.  
you and your purposes,  
you and your commands,  
you and our neighbors.

We find your holiness not at bay,  
but probing, pervading,  
insisting, demanding,

And we yield, sometimes gladly,  
Sometimes resentfully,  
Sometimes late... or soon.

We yield because you, beyond us, are our God.  
We are your creatures met by your holiness,  
by your holiness made our true selves.  
And we yield. Amen.

-Prayers of Walter Brueggemann, from *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*

*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**

## AMAZING PEACE: A CHRISTMAS POEM (an excerpt)

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.  
 We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.  
 We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.  
 Peace.  
 Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.  
 We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,  
 Implore you, to stay a while with us.  
 So we may learn by your shimmering light  
 How to look beyond complexion and see community.  
 It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.  
 On this platform of peace, we can create a language  
 To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.  
 At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ  
 Into the great religions of the world.  
 We jubilate the precious advent of trust.  
 We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.  
 All the earth's tribes loosen their voices  
 To celebrate the promise of Peace.  
 We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers,  
 Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.  
 Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.  
 Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves  
 And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.  
 Peace, My Brother.  
 Peace, My Sister.  
 Peace, My Soul.  
 -Dr. Maya Angelou

*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**

### O SAPIENTIA

It was from Joseph first I learned  
of love. Like me he was dismayed.  
How easily he could have turned  
me from his house; but, unafraid,  
he put me not away from him  
(O God-sent angel, pray for him).  
Thus through his love was Love obeyed.

The Child's first cry came like a bell:  
God's Word aloud, God's Word in deed.

The angel spoke: so it befell,  
and Joseph with me in my need.  
O Child whose father came from heaven,  
to you another gift was given,  
your earthly father chosen well.

With Joseph I was always warmed  
and cherished. Even in the stable  
I knew that I would not be harmed.  
And, though above the angels swarmed,  
man's love it was that made me able  
to bear God's love, wild, formidable,  
to bear God's will, through me performed.

-Madeleine L'Engle



## 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***

joy unspeakable is that moment of  
mystical encounter  
when God tiptoes into the hush arbor,  
testifies about Divine suffering,  
and whispers in our ears,  
"Don't forget,  
I taught you how to fly  
on a wing and a prayer,  
when you're ready  
let's go!"

- Barbara A. Holmes, excerpt from  
*Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church*

*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***

## CHRISTMAS COMES

Christmas comes every time we see God in another person.

The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem

or in Times Square,

for Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way

to Jerusalem ---

determinedly, inevitably ....

Even now it comes

in the face of hatred and warring ---

no atrocity too terrible to stop it,

no Herod strong enough,

no curse shocking enough

no disaster shattering enough.

For someone on earth will see the star,

someone will hear the angel voices,

someone will run to Bethlehem,

someone will know peace and goodwill:

the Christ will be born!

-Ann Weems, from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*





*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***

## FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAR TO TRAVEL

### *A Blessing for Epiphany*

If you could see  
the journey whole,  
you might never  
undertake it,  
might never dare  
the first step  
that propels you  
from the place  
you have known  
toward the place  
you know not.

Call it  
one of the mercies  
of the road:  
that we see it  
only by stages  
as it opens  
before us,  
as it comes into  
our keeping,  
step by  
single step.

There is nothing  
for it  
but to go,  
and by our going  
take the vows  
the pilgrim takes:

to be faithful to  
the next step;  
to rely on more  
than the map;  
to heed the signposts  
of intuition and dream;  
to follow the star  
that only you  
will recognize;

to keep an open eye  
for the wonders that  
attend the path;  
to press on  
beyond distractions,  
beyond fatigue,  
beyond what would  
tempt you  
from the way.

There are vows  
that only you  
will know:  
the secret promises  
for your particular  
path  
and the new ones  
you will need to make  
when the road  
is revealed

by turns  
you could not  
have foreseen.

Keep them, break them,  
make them again;  
each promise becomes  
part of the path,  
each choice creates  
the road

that will take you  
to the place  
where at last  
you will kneel

to offer the gift  
most needed –  
the gift that only you  
can give –  
before turning to go  
home by  
another way.

–Jan Richardson, from  
*Circle of Grace: A Book of  
Blessings for the Seasons*

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# REFLECTIONS & NOTES

*Photography by Andrew Schmid*

Cover: Regensberg Cathedral, Germany

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