



January 8, 2024

Epiphany Reclaimed

If you hear the date January 6 what comes to mind? Sadly, since 2021, it's likely to be the day our Nation's Capitol was overrun by citizens who wanted to stop the certification of the 2020 Presidential election. Prior to that, January 6 was known as the day Christians celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. It still is.

Ironically, both January 6 events were political in nature. The 2021 protestors/insurrectionists (depending on one's perspective) either were doing the right thing in light of a fraudulent election or were plotting to overthrow our democracy and stop the peaceful transfer of power. According to Matthew 2:1-12, Epiphany is when first-century foreign priests/astrologists from modern-day Iran traveled 800 miles to honor the newborn King of the Jews. Their presence enacted the manifestation of Christ as Savior of the whole world. However, their journey to worship a rival king threatened King Herod, Rome's puppet ruler in Judea. He responded by ordering the killing of all Jewish boys under two years of age. Herod's reaction foreshadowed the threat Jesus ultimately posed to the religious leaders who presented false charges to the Roman authorities so that they would crucify him as an insurrectionist which they did. It doesn't get more political than that.

The full import of the meaning of the January 6, 2021 event is not yet known and likely won't be known until the Supreme Court weighs in and voters elect the next President in November. But what January 6 as the Epiphany of the Lord means to us as Christians is certain: Jesus Christ is God's Son whom God sent to manifest God's will which is, ultimately, to save the whole world.

Jesus' words and deeds show us who God is: creative, loving, faithful, gracious, compassionate, kind, accepting, just, holy, hospitable, slow to anger, wise, forgiving, unselfish, generous, righteous, trustworthy, passionate, committed, persistent, patient, humble, empowering; a listener, giver, healer, affirmer, promise maker & keeper, pray-er, friend, teacher, leader, hope-giver...and more.

We can reclaim the meaning of January 6 as the Epiphany of the Lord by focusing on the God we know in Jesus Christ and what he wants for us. One way of doing that is through receiving or choosing a Star Word. Just as the Magi followed a star long ago that led them to the Christ-Child, so we can be guided by our Star Word and allow it to lead us to the healing, personal growth, deeper faith or whatever it is we need to be more fully alive as

God intends.



Star Word is simply that – a single word. To receive your word, you may either use this Star Word Generator from The Riverside Church in New York City which will give you a random word:

<https://www.trcnyc.org/starwords/>

OR

Choose a Star Word by reading through the words in this link:

<https://revgalblogpals.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/star-words-for-epiphany.pdf>.

(These are written on star shapes & there are blanks, too.)

Either way, trust that the Holy Spirit will use it for your good.

Record your Star Word somewhere you will see it regularly so you will be reminded to listen and watch for how it shows up in your life.

May this hymn, *God in Christ*, inspire you as you embrace your Star Word and follow our Lord Jesus Christ!

*God in Christ.
God in flesh.
God in human form.
The impact of the Christ story should startle and delight us;
it should form our lives and our desire,
it should turn our heads.
For God entered creation in a new way:
God sat at table and shared bread,
God laughed and God wept,
God savored sunsets and felt damp sand on the soles of feet,
God suffered
God risked,
God danced,
And thus God blessed human life.
There should be no more doubt.
Life is blessed.
Life is holy.*

~Written by Rev. Margie Osborn

God in Christ” by Susan Palo Cherwien, from Crossings: Meditations for Worship, © 2003 MorningStar Music.

Click [HERE](#) to read previous "Faith Matters" articles



8190 Lincoln Rd. Beulah, MI 49617
231.882.4241
www.benziestandrews.com



Benzie St. Andrews | 8190 Lincoln Rd, Beulah, MI 49617

[Unsubscribe \[media@benziestandrews.com\]\(mailto:unsubscribe_media@benziestandrews.com\)](mailto:unsubscribe_media@benziestandrews.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by byoffice@benziestandrews.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!