



Coming to Light: Litany for Winter Solstice

To prepare for our pilgrimage to the Reconciliation Labyrinth, we reflect and pray a litany of light. After each reflection, we will respond together:

May the dawn from on high break upon us.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone.

May the dawn from on high break upon us.

Silence... Ting Sha Bell

A Reading from Loretta Ross-Gotta:

What matters is relationship, the being with. We create holy ground and give birth to Christ in our time not by doing but by believing and by loving the mysterious Infinite One who stirs within. This requires trust that something of great and saving importance is growing and kicking its heels in you. What if, instead of *doing* something, we were to *be* something special? Be a womb. Be a dwelling for God. Be surprised.

May the dawn from on high break upon us.

Silence... Ting Sha Bell

A Reading from Thomas Moore

Solstice is a time of incubation, change and finally of renewal or rebirth. Many people today feel an underlying anxiety due to world events and the challenges of getting along in a complicated world. Solstice offers symbolic hope that there may be a turn in the ‘weather.’ The turn could take us to more genuine peace, justice, and community—key values in the Jesus teachings and qualities we expect in a renewed life turning more toward the light than the dark.

May the dawn from on high break upon us.

Silence... Ting Sha Bell

A Reading from Kathleen Norris

Mary proceeds—as we all must do in life—making her commitment without knowing much about what it will entail or where it will lead. When the mystery of God’s love breaks through my consciousness, do I run from it? Or am I virgin enough to respond from my deepest, truest self, and say something new, a “yes” that will change me forever?

May the dawn from on high break upon us.

Silence... Ting Sha Bell

A Reading from Thomas Merton

Our real journey in life is interior:
it is a matter of growth, deepening, and of an ever-greater surrender
to the creative action of love and grace in our lives.

May the dawn from on high break upon us.

Silence... Ting Sha Bell

A Reading from the Gospel of John

What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

May the dawn from on high break upon us.

Silence... Ting Sha Bell

Together we pray:

Great Spirit God,
Creator of Darkness and Light,
Be with each of us who walk the labyrinth this night.
Guide our paths and protect us on our way
As we seek the center and search for the truth.

As you begin the walk to the labyrinth, make your intention in silence:

***Like Bartimaeus, each of us has a prayer. His prayer was, "Lord, I want to see."
What is your prayer this winter's night? Bring it to the center of the labyrinth.***

