

January 8, 2023
Feast of the Epiphany

Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community
All are welcome at our table

Prayer Leaders: Judy and Gina

Music Leader: Julie

Opening Song: *What Child Is This/The Child of the Poor*

Prayer Leader: We begin in prayer remembering the many images of God ...

ALL: In the Name of God Who Brings Light, God Who Brings Peace, and God Who Is. Amen.

Prayer Leaders: Peace be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Prayer Before the Readings

Prayer Leader: As we enter the new year,
we trust God with our lives
We trust that there will be
enough strength and beauty
amid all the pain
to sustain us
and to urge us forward.

ALL: We trust that we will come to greater wholeness and transformation.

(Joyce Rupp, Anchors for the Soul, adapted)

Prayer Leader: In your presence, O God, may our minds be opened, our spirits renewed, and our questions and insights shared.

ALL: Amen.

Reading: "For Those Who Have Far to Travel " by Jan Richardson

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:

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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.

The words of Jan Richardson

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod the ruler, astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." At this news, Herod became greatly disturbed, and all Jerusalem as well. Summoning all of the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written,

 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
 since from you will come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report it to me so that I may go and offer homage too." After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented

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the child with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

The Good News as spoken through Matthew.

ALL: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Dialogue Homily

Our dialogue homily is a time of reflection and sharing on the readings as they speak to our faith and life experiences, and as expressed and lived by our varied faith traditions. As you share your thoughts, please be mindful of time to allow others to also offer their reflections.

Meditation Song: *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Traditional)

Prayers of the People

Prayer Leader: Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world.

Please offer petitions continuously without pausing. When all prayers have been stated, we will respond with "God, hear our prayer."

Prayer Leader: God of Hope, help us to be comfort and healing for our world and one another. For these and all the prayers we hold silently in our hearts, we pray:

ALL: God, hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: Knowing you hear us better than we speak, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. **ALL: Amen.** (Richard Rohr, adapted)

First Sunday Collection Recipient: *CultureALL*

Offertory Prayer

Prayer Leader: Holy source of all that is, although we live in uncertain times, we remain determined to be eucharist, to be thanksgiving to one another and to your world. We share our bread, as has been our joy, with one another and with your world.

ALL: We know you always generously provide all that is needed. May we live in your abundance. Even when we grieve and even when we fear, may we not be ruled by our grief or fear, but rest our hearts peacefully in your presence within us and all around us.

Prayer Leader: When we break bread in our homes, let it remind us of all the times we have offered bread to one another.

ALL: Remind us that whenever we break and share bread, we become bread, we become healing, we become peace, we become your grace in the world.

Prayer Leader: May the prayers of our community and the offering we collect support the work of CultureAll. **ALL: Amen.**

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Eucharistic Prayer for Epiphany

We are thankful for light, for the great radiance that gave birth to space and time, to the starfield garlands strewn through space, to the supernova fireworks in which were forged the elements for life on Earth, to our sun that burns itself out in the service of life, and takes form in a baby's smile, in the leafy green expanse we call "tree," and in the gaze of the gorilla.

We give thanks for the mystery of light.

The light of all lights radiated in the consciousness of prophets:
Moses and Miriam, Lao Tzu, Confucius, the Buddha,
the swamis of India, Mohammed, Black Elk, and many others.

When Jesus was born, his light lit our path: a path of sacred wisdom, a path of forgiveness, a path of evolutionary grace, a path of compassion for the left-behinds, a path that makes room for all, human and other-than-human, at the banquet of life. And so we join in a canticle of the cosmos, saying:

Holy, holy, holy, our hearts, our hearts adore you.
Our hearts are glad to say these words: You are holy, God.

At his final meal with his disciples, Jesus broke the bread and helped them understand that he had given himself as bread for a hungry world:
"This is my body, broken for you."

When the meal was finished, he helped them understand that he had poured himself out completely for the emergence of a new humanity:
"This is my blood, poured out for you."

May your ever-present spirit bless these gifts and bless this gathering, that we may be transformed by his radiance and become, by a grace beyond our understanding, the light that shines, first upon those places within ourselves that are born of fear, and then those dark places and ways of being in the world that are the children of fear. To you, whose light and love "fires the sun" and keeps us burning, we dedicate this banquet of love.

Amen.

(Bruce Sanguin, If Darwin Prayed: Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics)

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The Lord's Prayer

ALL: O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration, soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence, your Light can abide. Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission. Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with our desire. Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish. Untie the tangled threads of destiny, the darkness that binds us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes. Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment. For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power, and fulfillment, as all is gathered and made whole once again. Amen.

(Translation from Aramaic directly into English by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Ph.D., adapted; <https://abwoon.org>)

Final Prayer

Prayer Leader: Creator of the Stars, God of Epiphanies, You are the Great Star. You have marked my path with light. You have filled my sky with stars, naming each star, guiding it until it shines into my heart, awakening me to deeper seeing, new revelations and brighter epiphanies.

**ALL: O Infinite Star Giver,
I now ask for wisdom and courage to follow these stars
for their names are many and my heart is fearful.
They shine on me wherever I go:
The Star of Hope
The Star of Mercy and Compassion
The Star of Justice and Peace
The Star of Tenderness and Love
The Star of Suffering
The Star of Joy.**

Prayer Leader: And every time I feel the shine,
I am called to follow it, to sing it, to live it
all the way to the cross and beyond.
O Creator of the Stars,
you have become within me an unending Epiphany.

ALL: Amen. ("Epiphany" by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, from: [Ignatian Spirituality: Set the World Ablaze](#))

Healing Blessing

Prayer Leader: God, like the sunlight, is always there. Sometimes clouds may block that light which may last for seconds and may go on for days. But, for all of us, the light is always there, even in the darkness of the clouds. (Judy Porter)

ALL: Amen.

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Celebrations / Announcements

Blessing:

Prayer Leader: May the Giver of all good gifts of life bless us and keep us.

ALL: And strengthen us to dream and generate a world of peace, justice, equity, abundance, and love for all. Amen. (Cameron Trimble, "Piloting Faith," adapted)

Closing Song: *Joy to the World/ Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

***Thank you for sharing in our celebration of faith.
Please stay to join a chat room immediately following the service.***

***We pray together every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.,
either at DMIEC or via Zoom (see calendar).
Our service next Sunday, January 15, will be in-person at DMIEC.
All are welcome!***

For the collection each week, checks can be written to "DMIEC." The First Sunday collection each month supports a selected charitable organization. The remaining collections cover utility, insurance, and other usual and customary expenses. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Weekly/monthly checks can be left in the basket during in-person services or sent to:

DMIEC, P.O. Box 30065, Des Moines, 50310.

The memo line should clearly state whether donations are for "Operations" or "First Sunday."

If you are interested in having monthly or weekly contributions to DMIEC made automatically by ACH debits to your checking or savings account, go to dmiec.org and click on "Stewardship," or contact Ed Arnold.

Next week is DMARC Emergency Food Pantry Sunday

***Please send donation checks directly to DMARC. Write checks to "DMARC" and mail to:
DMARC, 100 Army Post Rd., Des Moines, IA 50315.***

Please include a note with your check indicating that you are part of the DMIEC Community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sundays, January 15 & 29, February 12 & 26, <i>DMIEC</i>	In-Person Sunday Services	Liturgy Team
Sundays, January 22, February 5 & 19, <i>via Zoom</i>	Zoom Sunday Services	Liturgy Team
Thursday, January 12, 6:30 p.m., <i>via Zoom</i>	Social Justice Meeting	Social Justice Committee
Wednesday, January 18, 3:00 p.m., <i>DMIEC</i>	Liturgy Planning Meeting	Liturgy Team
Sunday, January 22, after service, <i>via Zoom</i>	Community Conversation	Community Council
Fridays, 3:00 p.m., <i>DMIEC</i>	Sidewalk Solidarity Vigil	Julie

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FIRST SUNDAY COLLECTION for JANUARY

Collection recipient: *CultureALL*

CultureALL is a local nonprofit upholding the belief that sharing the cultural richness of our community with others will elevate our society and the quality of life for all. When Iowans *participate* in cultural traditions, we begin to *appreciate* the diversity around us. The experiences *elevate* our attitudes and behaviors to help us be more accepting and able to bridge differences.

With its ***Open Book*** program, CultureALL trains local people to become “Books” by helping them craft seven ten-minute stories that come from their lived experiences. After the stories are shared with a small group, the Books facilitate a dialogue with the participants. Story-sharing makes space for listeners to embrace more robust and complete narratives about others and about themselves. CultureALL works with community organizations and businesses to find space for the Books to share their stories.

Donations from DMIEC will provide funding for Open Book training at Corinthian Baptist Church for 10 people to become Books. The Books would also be trained as facilitators to guide conversation about topics that arise from honest conversations about Black heritage in our community. Open Book could shine a light on a church community that has been in Iowa almost 125 years. Stories may focus on experiences of racism, family heritage, faith, and culture, honoring differences and shared humanity.

DMIEC funding will pay Books for the training and for the story-sharing at three local churches: DMIEC, Plymouth Congregational Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Church. The newly trained Books would also be added to CultureALL’s Open Book catalog and would enhance programming in schools, other churches in the community, libraries, businesses, and community events. For more information, go to cultureall.org.

CHECKS SHOULD BE MAILED TO: DMIEC, P.O. Box 30065, Des Moines, IA 50310

Checks can be written either to “CultureALL” or “DMIEC” with “First Sunday” in the memo line.

We would prefer that all checks be mailed to DMIEC. If you mail your check directly to the organization, please inform Ed of the amount, if you feel comfortable, so the Social Justice Committee can get an accurate count of donations.

DMIEC EVENTS

Social Justice Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Social Justice Committee meets the second Thursday of odd-numbered months. New members needed and always welcome. For the Zoom link or more information, contact Kathy

SIDEWALK SOLIDARITY VIGIL

Fridays, 3:00 p.m., DMIEC

We gather to honor Black lives lost to police violence. We open with prayer inside DMIEC and speak their names, then stand in silence for nine minutes in front of the building. We go back inside to close with prayer, song, and reflection. If weather is not good for outside, we stay inside the building.

DES MOINES CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE NEEDS:

Place items in the grocery cart in the coat room at DMIEC. Needed items:

- ground coffee, creamer / rice / large #10 cans vegetables / sugar / seasonings / to-go containers
- shampoo / deodorant / razors / lotion / soap / toothbrushes and toothpaste
- plastic bags / bleach / rubber gloves / Murphy's Oil soap / ice melt
- socks / hand warmers / candles

Send monetary contributions to Des Moines Catholic Worker, P.O. Box 4551, Des Moines, 50305.

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THE BREATHING LIFE OF ALL: *Chant, Movement, and Meditation with the Aramaic Jesus* **April 14-16 in Des Moines**

This multi-day weekend retreat will offer an experience of chanting, moving, and meditating with the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus (the “Lord's Prayer”) with Neil Douglas-Klotz, the originator of this work. Additionally, an individual, silent body prayer practice will be shared which can be added to one’s daily meditation.

Monday Leadership Workshop on the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus, Monday, April 17

This morning and afternoon workshop will be an extra day for those who want to go deeper into the Prayer and the Aramaic spiritual practices that Jesus left.

*Right now you can register for the **Retreat Plus Monday** at <https://aramaicdsm2023.eventbrite.com/>
(A minimum number is needed for the Monday program to be offered, so that registration is open first.)*

Beginning January 20, you can register for the Retreat only.

SUNDAY ZOOM LINK ACCESS

On the Sundays when our prayer service is held via Zoom, the Zoom link is available in the “Members Only” area of the DMIEC website. If the Friday email with the Sunday Zoom link does not appear in your email, please go to our website where you will be able to click on the Zoom link Sunday morning.

Instructions: Login to DMIEC.org. On the home page, directly under **Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community**, is a menu bar. Click on the first menu item **Quick Info**. When that page opens, you will see **Weekly Sunday Prayer Service Zoom Link**. On Sunday morning, click the link to connect to our Zoom prayer service.

Kevin will continue to email the Zoom link on Fridays when our Sunday prayer service is held via Zoom. If you are not experiencing any problems, there is no need to go to the website.

****NOTE**** When contacting DMIEC by email, please send to dmiec11@gmail.com.

*Please **do not reply** to Kevin's emails to the membership. Those emails are from a separate web-generated email account that is not regularly monitored for incoming or reply messages.*

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: DMIEC recognizes that civic involvement is an important part of a citizen's role and encourages that involvement by all members, regardless of party affiliation. However, DMIEC worship services and communications are not the forums in which to disparage or promote specific elected officials, political parties, candidates, or campaign events.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Pastoral Care Ministry Team:

Kevin

Mary Beth

Meal Coordinator:

Karen

(Contact Karen to coordinate meal deliveries to DMIEC members suffering from illness, surgery, or accident.)

There is an assistance fund for DMIEC members needing emergency financial assistance with food, shelter, utilities, transportation and medical and/or health issues. If you face such a need, we encourage you to contact a member of the Pastoral Care Ministry Team.

Community Council

Ed

Robin

Mary Ann

Jean

Cindy

Judy

Maureen

To submit an item for the bulletin, please send to Martha.



DMIEC on Facebook: “Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community”

