



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

Blessings for Epiphany

The Blessings

During the final hymn, all gather at a place where there is a suitable door to mark. You need one or more bowls of chalk, with about 1/3 of a stick of white chalk for each person/family.

Of the Chalk:

May God,
who provided a safe dwelling place
for the eternal Word,
bless this chalk,
the homes of the faithful,
and all the people who live in them,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A door in the Church was then marked, using the prayers below.

Of the People:

As the wise men were led by the light of a star,
so may you be led by the light of the gospel,
and through your own lives
pass on the light of Christ to others.
And the blessing...
to which all respond: **AMEN.**

God of gold
We seek your glory.

God of incense
We offer you our prayer

God of myrrh
We remember the pain of the world.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. **AMEN.**

The Chalk is distributed as people leave.

WHEN YOU GET HOME

Take the blessed chalk and mark on the lintel of your front door (or another suitable outside place)

24 + C + M + B + 24

Saying and writing:

The three Wise Men,

C Caspar,

M Melchior,

B and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became human

20 two thousand

24 and twenty-four years ago.

++ May Christ bless our home

++ and remain with us throughout this New Year. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Epiphany & the New Year

Not gold, nor myrrh, nor even frankincense
would I have for you this season,
but simple gifts, the ones that are hardest to find,
the ones that are perfect,
even for those who have everything (if such there be).

I would (if I could)
have for you the gift of courage,
the strength to face the gauntlets
only you can name,
and the firmness in your heart to know
that you (yes, you!) can be a bearer of the quiet dignity
that is the human glorified.

I would (if by my intention I could make it happen)
have for you the gift of connection,
the sense of standing on the hinge of time,
touching past and future
standing with certainty that you (yes, you!)
are the point where it all comes together.

I would (if wishing could make it so)
have for you the gift of community,
a nucleus of love and challenge,
to convince you in your soul
that you (yes, you!) are a source of light
in a world too long believing in the dark.

Not gold, nor myrrh, nor even frankincense,
would I have for you this season,
but simple gifts, the ones that are hardest to find,
the ones that are perfect,
even for those who have everything (if such there be).

Revd Maureen Killoran, Minister UU Church of Asheville, NC

