

Reflection Thursday - The Epiphany - 6th January 2022

"There was a story about what might have happened in the Christmas story had the three wise men been women. The answer was one that most women would appreciate. The three wise women would have asked directions, they would have arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, brought more practical gifts, and there would be a peace on earth." A story worth pondering.

Epiphany is a combined Greek word derived from *epi*: to and *phainein*: to show, to show forth, to shine upon. The noun is *epiphaneia*, meaning appearance, manifestation. The 6th of January was designated as the feast of Epiphany because that was the birthday of Aeon, the patron god of Alexandria. The Gnostics had designated Christ as one of the Aeons. The pagan celebration was Christianised as was the date of the Nativity.

"Epiphany" by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB

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.

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.

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.

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

End Note: But what the three wise women would have said when they left...?

"Did you see the sandals Mary was wearing with that gown?"

"That baby doesn't look anything like Joseph!"

"Virgin? Yeah! I knew her in school!"

"Can you believe that they let all of those disgusting animals in the house?"

"I heard that Joseph isn't even working right now!"

"And that donkey they are riding has seen better days!"

"Want to bet on how long it will take until you get your casserole dish back?"