

Holiday Log 2009

Dear Parents, Friends, and Families

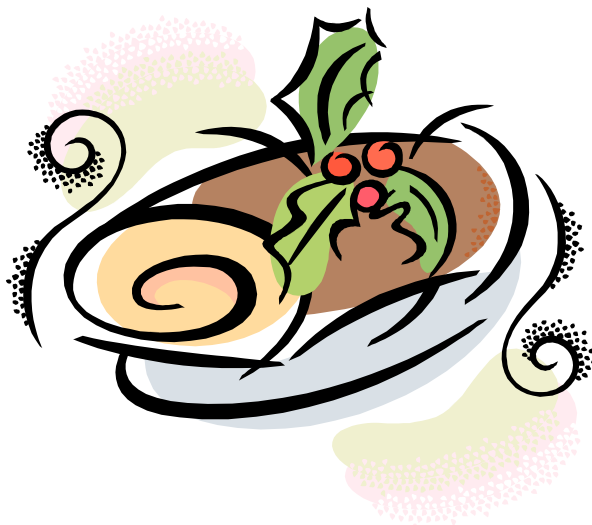


This is a special time of year, so it's good to have special things to do together. This week, we start marking the weeks until Christmas by lighting one red candle on each of the four Sundays prior to Christmas. The fifth candle is to be lit on Christmas Eve. Each candle represents a special feeling for the Holiday season: LOVE, SHARING, WONDER, AND HOPE.

Many of you have made and decorated logs in our past Holiday Workshops, or maybe you bought one at the Holiday Faire. You can even simply arrange five candles in a special place, maybe even on your dining room table. If you need help, see Rick, he has ordered special votives to help our church families create a centerpiece in their homes. We hope you and your family will take a little time each Sunday at home to celebrate the Holiday season with our Holiday Log Candles. We've constructed a simple ceremony of a song, followed by a short reading. We hope you will feel comfortable doing it together. Of course, if you'd rather "do your own thing," feel free to do so. Follow your heart and do what feels right to you.

Our warm and best wishes to you and your family for a Joyous Holiday Season!

Rick Carkin, DRE



November 29, First Sunday. Our first candle symbolizes LOVE.

Let's begin by singing, "Deck the Hall"



14

Deck the Hall

TRADITIONAL

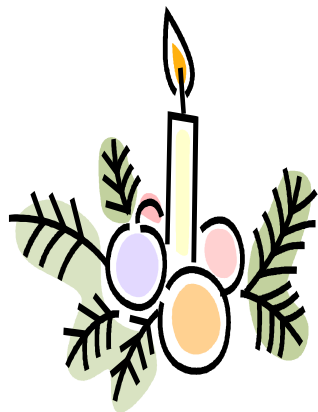
OLD WELSH

1. Deck the hall with boughs of hol - ly, }
2. See the blaz - ing Yule be - fore us, } Fa la la la la la la la la.
3. Fast a - way the old year pass - es, }

'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly, }
Strike the harp and join the chor - us, } Fa la la la la la la la la.
Hail the new ye lads and lass - ies, }

Don we now our gay ap - par - el, }
Fol - low me in mer - ry meas - ure, } Fa la la la la la la la la.
Sing we joy - ous all to - geth - er, }

Troll the an - cient Yule - tide car - ol, }
While I tell of Yule - tide tres - ure, } Fa la la la la la la la la.
Heed - less of the wind and weath - er, }



"We feel LOVE all during the year, but during the Holiday Season we sometimes seem to burst inside with a special feeling. People take extra time to reach out to each other (even to strangers), to smile, say hello, and wish each other "Happy Holidays!" It make all of us feel warm and close to each other.

Perhaps the extra love and friendship that is shown during the Holiday season is what makes this time of year more special than any other time of the year."

December 6th, Second Sunday. Our second candle represents SHARING.

Let's sing verses one and four of "We Three Kings"

We Three Kings of Orient Are 13

J. H. H. JOHN H. HOPKINS

1. We three Kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
2. Born a Babe on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold we bring to crown Him a - gain,
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;



CHORUS
Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, O - ver us all to reign. O —
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high,
Sor - row - ing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.

Star of won - der, Star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to Thy per - fect light.



When Jesus was born, it is said that three kings brought gifts to share with the new baby.

The holidays are a special time for sharing. We all think right away of the presents we receive. But this is also a time for another kind of sharing - sharing part of ourselves with someone else. Maybe the sharing could be a song we sing or play for someone else, or a special job we do for someone to help them, or even a special hug or kiss for someone we like. All of these (and many others) are ways we can share ourselves with someone else.

Think of some new and different ways you can share part of you.

December 13th, Third Sunday

Our third candle represents WONDER, the spirit of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

Let's sing "Ose Shalom"

1

A



O - se sha- lom bim ro- mav_

5



hu- ya- a- se sha- lom a- le-

9



nu v' al kol Yis- ra- el_

13

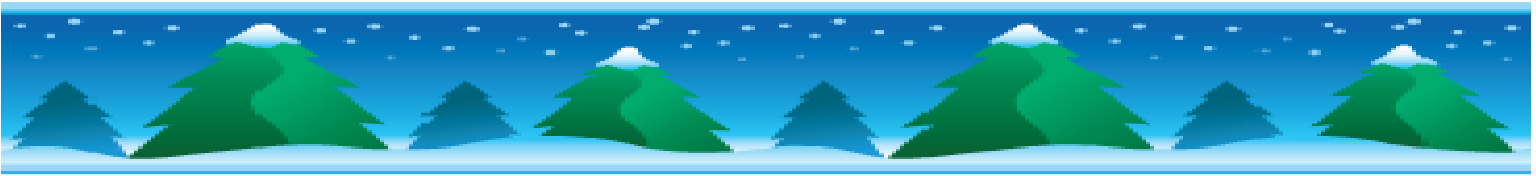


v'- im- ru_ im- ru A- men

Hanukkah actually starts on December 21 this year, next Sunday night. Long ago, when the Israelites fought their way back into their ancient temple, they worked hard to clean it up and get it ready for worship. They had just a little oil for the lamp, yet somehow that lamp burned for eight days. The people felt wonder at the sight of the lamp burning so long with so little oil.

When we take time to look, there is much to cause wonder in our world: our own lives, the amazing processes of being born and growing, the billions of stars in the universe, the many, many kinds of plants and animals here on earth, the love shared in families. Take time for WONDER!





December 20th, Fourth Sunday Our fourth candle represents Hope, the spirit of the ancient pagan holiday of the winter solstice.

Let's sing "Winter Solstice Song", in honor of Yule, the pagan holiday of hope:

Winter Solstice Song

ROUND

Elat Ophidia Alekner

Deep in the dark of the long-est night we keep our vig-il by
can-dle-light, wait-ing to sing to the new-born Sun the
God-dees will birth when the night is done. Raise your voi-ces,
sing on high, let all the Earth hear your joy-ful cry,
on this night we sing to Light and the God-dees of all plea-sure
and de-light. Raise your voi-ces, Sing, your praise
o'er all the Earth 'til the dark-ness fades, on this night we
sing to Light and the God-dees of all plea-sure and de-light.

The actual shortest day and longest night of this year are on December 21 and 22 -- the sun reaches the Tropic of Capricorn during the night hours of the 22nd.

Long, long ago the people knew that the nights grew longer and the days grew shorter and the earth became cold in winter. The growing things stopped growing in the fall, and people had to be careful so they would have enough to eat through the time when there was nothing to harvest. They marked with great care the day when the sun began to rise a little earlier and set a little later. Once that started to happen, day by day, the days would get longer and the earth would get warmer. It was a time of celebration for people who lived in hope for spring's return.

December 24 Christmas Eve.

This candle is for Christmas, which means many different things to different people. It's a time for celebration and new beginnings.



Let's sing one verse of "The First Noel"

6

The First Noël

TRADITIONAL

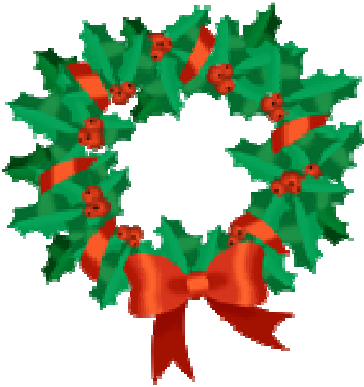
Harmonized by Sir John Stainer

1. The first No - ël the an - gel did say Was to
2. They look - ed up and saw a Star Shin - ing
3. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
4. Then en - ter'd in there wise men three, Full

certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay
in the East, beyond them far, And to the earth it
Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it did both
rev - rent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fer'd there in

keep - ing their sheep On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
gave great light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
stop and stay Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
His pres - ence, Their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, Born is the King of Is - ra - ël.



Let's share a poem together, written by Sophia Fahs, a great Unitarian religious educator.

"Each night a child is born is a holy night.
Fathers and mothers sitting beside their children's cribs
Feel glory in the sight of a new life beginning.
Each night a child is born is a holy night.
A time for singing, a time for wondering,
A time for worshipping.