

ADVENT DEVOTIONS – Village Chapel – 2018

A quick survey of the scriptures for this Advent season highlights the presence of “stars”, so we thought we would make that our theme this year. Here are a few reflections, by our own members and others that we hope will fill your hearts with hopes, peace, love, and joy!

IN DECEMBER DARKNESS

The whole world waits in December darkness
for a glimpse of the Light of God.

Even those who snarl “Humbug!” and chase away the carolers
have been seen looking toward the skies.

The one who declared he never would forgive has forgiven,
and those who left home have returned,
and even wars are halted, if briefly,
as the whole world looks starward.

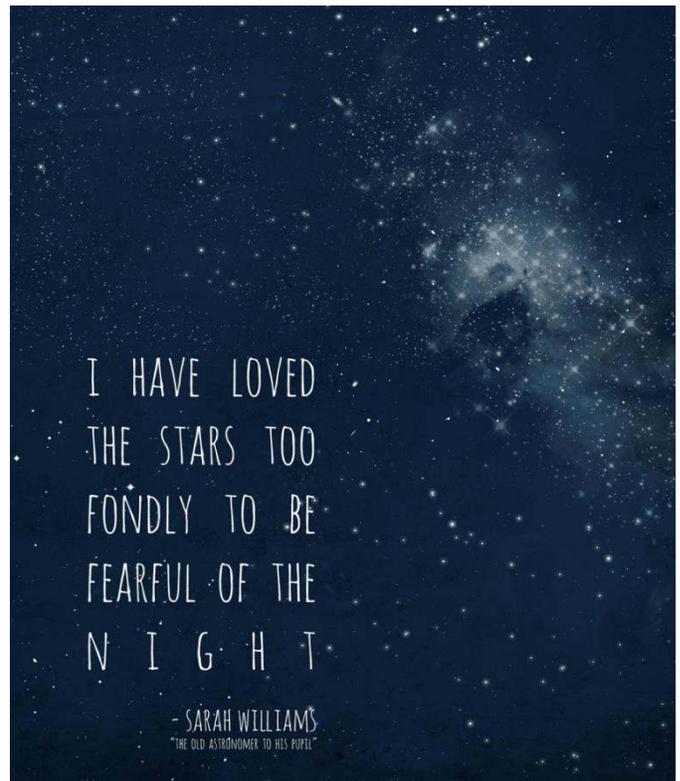
In the December darkness we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings to announce the Hope of the World.

— **Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem**

“Shine a star for me to see
what children see on Christmas morning.
Every hope and dream
to be renewed.”

- **Al Jarreau, from his song, “Save Me”**

Back in 2012, Beth Chiparo wrote, “Recently, I found myself flipping through my college yearbook. I had forgotten that each senior submitted a favorite quote to place below our photographs. I chose this one, by Al Jarreau.” Years later, when her daughter, Erin, was small, “she crept into the living room and stared in wonder at the Christmas tree and all the gifts. The star was shining in our little girl and she would forever love Christmas and would grow to be a young woman who wanted to make traditions and magic for others.”



As of Advent 2018, this quote means even more to her since Beth and Jeff look forward to celebrating with Erin and her husband, Mike, and their precious grandson, Nino! “He (at 8 months) will be experiencing his first ‘wonder’ about Christmas and see his first special star! What a gift!”