

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

January, 2025

Virtual Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Saturday, 12:00

2783 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
718-597-6298

Sunday Worship
Sunday 11:00 am

cotm47@verizon.net

WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

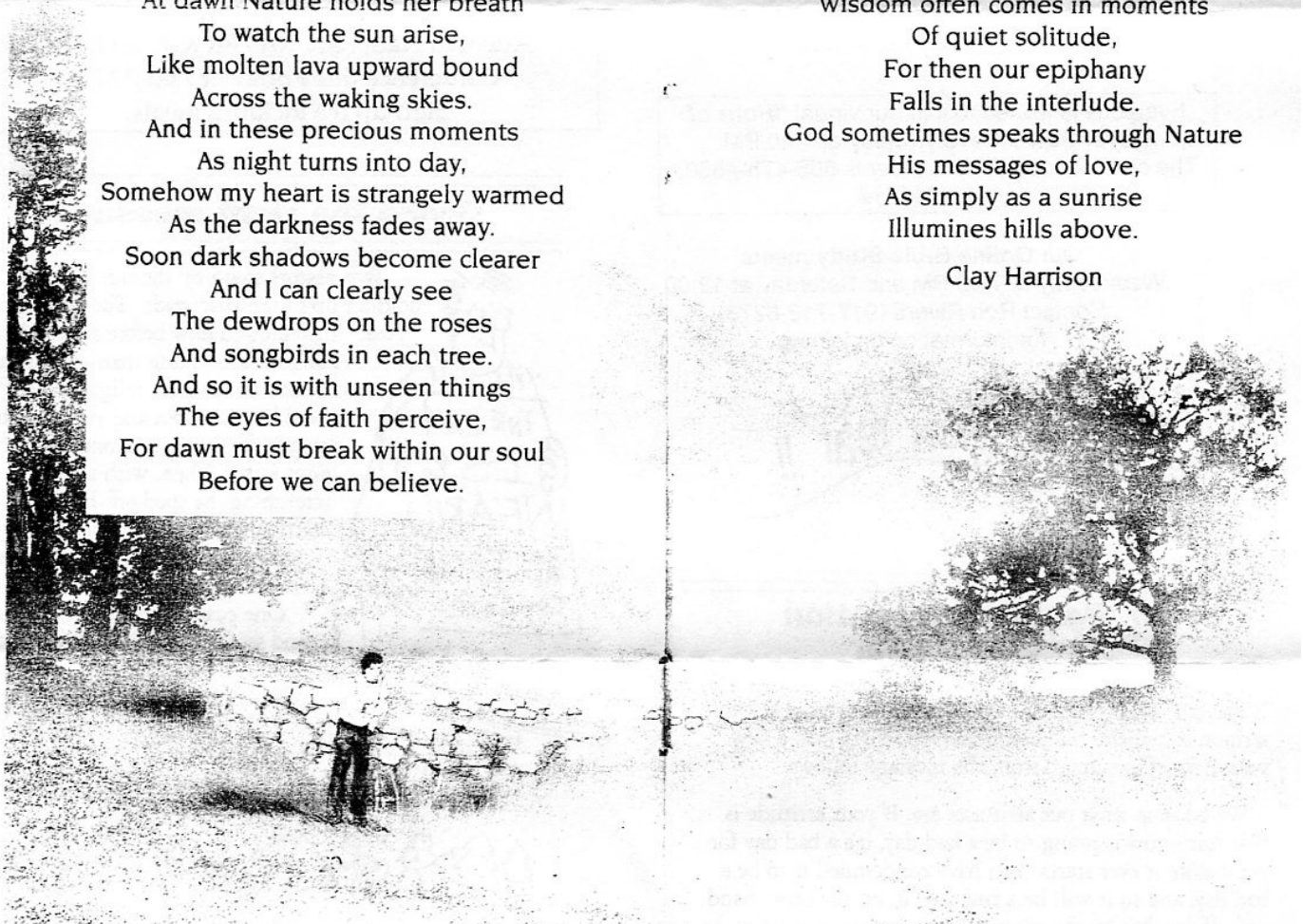
Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

Epiphany

At dawn Nature holds her breath
To watch the sun arise,
Like molten lava upward bound
Across the waking skies.
And in these precious moments
As night turns into day,
Somehow my heart is strangely warmed
As the darkness fades away.
Soon dark shadows become clearer
And I can clearly see
The dewdrops on the roses
And songbirds in each tree.
And so it is with unseen things
The eyes of faith perceive,
For dawn must break within our soul
Before we can believe.

Wisdom often comes in moments
Of quiet solitude,
For then our epiphany
Falls in the interlude.
God sometimes speaks through Nature
His messages of love,
As simply as a sunrise
Illumines hills above.

Clay Harrison



Begin the year
with God

SPECIAL DATES

- New Year's Day, January 1st
- Epiphany, January 6th
- Baptism of the Lord, January 12th

News From the Pews



Prayer Requests

Continue praying for:
Ellen McCullough,
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,
Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual **"Hour of Prayer Power"** every Friday at 7:00 PM.
The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860,
code: 371231#

Our **Online Bible Study** meets
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)
for information on joining



Dr. Peale's suggestion for a new year

The late Dr. Norman Vincent Peale preached a helpful sermon to prepare his parishioners for entry into a new year. A brief paragraph from the message follows:

We become what our attitudes are. If your attitude is that tomorrow is going to be a bad day, it's a bad day for you before it ever starts. You have condemned it to be a bad day, and so it will be a bad day. If, on the other hand, you affirm that by the grace of God tomorrow is going to be a wonderful day, it's a wonderful day for you before you ever begin it because you have affirmed it as a wonderful day. I'll guarantee this: By reversing sick attitudes that you've had up to this time and making them healthy attitudes, you can make [the coming year] a wonderful year. It's amazing what you can do with yourself if you make up your mind to.

—From Peale's sermon,
"Building Bricks for Sixty-Six"

CHURCH CHUCKLES

There was a knock on the Pearly Gates, and St. Peter answered to find a man standing there. He glanced down at his clipboard to begin the intake process; however, when he looked back up, the man was gone. St. Peter shrugged and closed the gates. A moment later the same man knocked again. When St. Peter noticed him, he began to speak, but the man disappeared even as the saint was looking right at him. When the man appeared for the third time, Peter shouted, "Hey, what's the big idea? Are you trying to be funny?"

"No!" the man called back as he disappeared again. "They keep trying to revive me!"

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Attend a National PRAYER & FASTING
Conference this Friday at 7:00 P.M.
Sign-up fee includes meals.

Giving the right message



Two pastors stood by the side of a road holding up a sign that read: "The End is Near! Turn around now before it's too late!"

Along came a young man who apparently had no time for religion. He slowed his car down and yelled at the clergymen, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" Then, with tires screeching, he sped off. He had hardly left the scene when the clergymen heard a terrible noise that ended with a loud splash.

One pastor turned to the other and said, "Do you think we should change our sign to read simply, 'BRIDGE OUT!'?"



If you think nutritious food is expensive, try illness once!

If you think lifting is dangerous, try being weak.

If you think fitness is time consuming, try waiting in a doctor's office.

Short term costs pay long term dividends

Seasonal De-Stress Getting Out There

Nature-based interventions help reduce stress and anxiety levels and improve mental and physical well-being, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists. A brief walk around the block, mindfully noticing elements of nature, such as clouds and birdsong, can help recharge and improve your well-being. Even more effective is spending time in green areas, such as parks, near trees or by a stream. Bringing nature indoors can support your good mental health, such as a small potted plant, a leaf or a shell.



The story behind Epiphany

Epiphany is the Christian festival celebrated each year on January 6. Along with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, it is one of the oldest Christian holy days.

The festival was first celebrated in the Eastern Church (Orthodox) and was adopted in the Western church by the fourth century. Epiphany commemorates the first "showing forth" or manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles, particularly the Magi or Wise Men. The Epiphany story is meant to explain that Christ was not just for the Jews, but for non-Jews (Gentiles) as well, anywhere in the world.

The eve of Epiphany is called Twelfth Night and relates to the arrival of the Wise Men from the East at the birthplace of the Lord in Bethlehem.



In our newsletters, we are sharing our financial reports with our readers so everyone is aware of our situation. Our most recent reports for October (+\$915.85) & November (+\$33.33) were a bit more encouraging, but December is when all the quarterly bill are going to be paid.

We're trying to cut corners as much as possible but we need the help of our members, former members and friends. **As a member, if you miss a week or two, please make up your weekly donations for those weeks.** You may not be here for those weeks, but our expenses don't skip a week.

Again, we thank our generous former members and friends who send us a donation, whether it's on a regular basis, occasionally during the year or during the holiday season. We really appreciate the donations, as well as hearing from you.

Our prayer is that we can continue to keep in touch with everyone and that will only be with your help.

Get the most from the coming year

To get the most out of the coming year, we must put the most into it; and we put the most into it by living in a spirit of earnestness, not trifling with the golden hours, but receiving each as a precious gift from God. Only such earnest purpose makes the day a blessing, insures progress from good to better, and causes us to live in eternity while we are in time.

—James Freeman Clarke

Mother Goose & Grimm



January 2025 Newsletter Article

January ushers in a New Year. One with new possibilities, new challenges, new joys and sorrows, new hope and new miracles, and most of all an opportunity for a new and closer walk with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!¹ I was moved to share the below New Year's Prayer by Rev. Marcy Sheremetta.²

I pray it will be a blessing to you all as we enter into 2025 with God's blessings and His divine guidance for what lies ahead for each of us. Praying you all have a Happy, Healthy, and Blessed New Year!

Shalom to you now,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

Pastor

Church of the Master

A New Year's Prayer

"As the dawn breaks on a new year,
let us give thanks for all we hold dear:
our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger
and our pains, for these are nothing but
binding chains. Let us live each day in
the most loving ways, the God-conscious
way. Let us serve all who are in need,
regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own
understanding in our hearts and
to chant God's name each day.
Let us lead the world from darkness
to light, from falsehood to truth
and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are
all one, embracing all, discriminating
against none.

May your year be filled with peace,
prosperity and love. May God's
blessings shower upon you and
bestow upon each of you a bright,
healthy and peaceful new year."

¹ This Newsletter Article was reprinted from 2022.

² 22 Best New Year's Prayers. (

. (Accessed on December 6, 2021)).