

Chalking of the Door & Prayer

A few words of explanation: Mathew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother (MT. 2:10-11). In the church, as in our homes, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. As we gather here, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. As we gather, Christ is welcome.

*This blessing is appropriate in the new year! Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 23. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.)*

By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established;
by knowledge the rooms are filled
with all precious and pleasant riches. (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this home, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. *From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1: 1-4, 14, 16)*

The inscription is made 20 + C M B + 23 as these words are spoken: The magi of old, known as

C Caspar

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

23 and twenty-three years ago.

+ Christ, bless this house,

+ and remain with us throughout the new year.

Let us pray...

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

