

JANUARY 1



# I Am That I Am

*Exodus 3:14*

I bow before you who have no name.  
Your intimate presence startles my soul  
Like the first glimpse of a rising moon.  
Your unwavering, companioning love  
Flows like a golden rivulet of kindness  
Through the veins of my truest self.  
Born out of my desire to communicate  
I ask for the simplest of gifts from you,  
The privilege to call you by many names,  
The blessing of communicating with you.

*Today:* I think about my favorite name for the divine.

JANUARY 2



# Namer of the Stars

*Psalm 147:3-4*

Looking up into the glittering galaxies  
I see a breathtaking canopy of light.  
Each twinkle leads to another and another,  
Stretching out into an endless universe.  
Every star reveals an immensity of mystery  
And stirs in the soul a connection with you.  
You touch the heavens with sparkling beauty  
As you call each bright luminary into its place.  
Namer of the Stars, Creator of Wonder,  
I bow to the eternal brightness that is you.

*Today: The Namer of Stars leads me to wonder.*

JANUARY 3



# Absolute Mystery

*Karl Rahner*

No amount of endless rationalizing,  
No incessant stewing of the exploring mind,  
No pressured tactics of spiritual dissection,  
None of this will reveal your secluded depths.  
Only when the hunting soul comes near you  
With respectful openness and humble desire,  
Will the immensity of your simple presence  
Shine forth with strobe-light awareness.  
Only then can one fully respond, "I believe"  
And rest in a laser beam of confident faith.

*Today: I rest quietly with Absolute Mystery.*

JANUARY 4

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Ancient Love

*Carolyn McDade*

When did the first whisper of your primeval love  
Touch with infinite tenderness all that exists?  
When did your kiss awaken each sleeping atom?  
When did you breathe life into every particle?  
Oh, Ancient Love, forever gliding through the ages,  
You continually birth yourself into creation  
Including this present moment of flowing life.  
You whisper in this day with similar tenderness,  
Reverberating in the beating heart of existence.  
You are a steady cadence of love within us all.

*Today: I rejoice at Ancient Love dancing in life.*

JANUARY 5



## Dreamer

O Dreamer who quietly enters my life  
With your basketful of transforming symbols,  
You come sailing the inaudible night skies  
Within the silent corridors of my sleep,  
Bringing the needed truths I rarely perceive  
In the bold, glaring light of my active days.  
Hearken to me with your messengers.  
Gift me, please, with dreams of revelation  
So the uncertain path I trod to my true self  
Becomes ever clearer and ready to walk.

*Today:* I await with confidence the *Dreamer's* revelations.

JANUARY 6

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All-Seeing One

*Job 28:23-24*

I look as far as I can into future days, weeks, months,  
Desiring to see what is ahead and waiting for me.  
But my vision is limited and clouded with desire.  
I return to seeing only what is in this present moment.  
I do not need to know that which is far beyond.  
I have only to trust you to direct me, All-Seeing One.  
The gradual disclosure of what is best for my life  
Will reveal itself when the appropriate time comes.  
It is enough for me to rely on your endless affection  
And to listen carefully to your wisdom within me.

*Today: I trust the presence of the All-Seeing One.*

JANUARY 7



# Jesus

*Matthew 1:21*

**J**esus, your name has been on my lips  
Since I was a young and innocent child.  
Now these many years since first we met  
I understand you are more than a name.  
To know you is to allow your teachings  
To reach into the core of my daily life,  
To have your vision be the vital substance  
Of what truly guides and rules how I live.  
How easy to bend the knee to your name  
But how difficult it is to bend the heart.

*Today:* I make an effort to love as *Jesus* did.

JANUARY 8



# Guiding Star

*Matthew 2:1-2*

Like the wise ones who sought the Christ Child,  
I have trekked for eons in the aimless dark  
Moving by faith within my inner landscapes  
Without a detailed map, and full of questions.  
In spite of all that seems void and doubtful,  
My seeking of you has never been halted.  
When the searching path to you grows faint  
You appear as my trusted Guiding Star,  
A beacon of hope beckoning me onward,  
Manifesting your presence in surprising ways.

*Today: I walk by the Guiding Star of faith.*

JANUARY 9

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Joy of Every Loving  
Heart

*Charles Wesley*

You are the gift unable to be kept secret,  
Leaping out from the happiness of sharing.  
You are the blessing of intentional kindness,  
The sigh of satisfaction in generous giving.  
You are the reward of helping hands,  
The natural euphoria of each caring heart.  
You are the quiet bliss of assured contentment  
Coming forth from hospitable gestures.  
You are the look of love in hearts that receive,  
The quiet pleasure in gracious acceptance.

*Today:* I find *Joy* in both giving and receiving.

JANUARY 10

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Allah

*The Qur'an*

Your name, Allah, is voiced reverently on Muslim lips.  
You are their “most merciful and compassionate.”  
Allah, your title is rarely used by Christians and Jews,  
Yet , we are joined, we three, in a common heritage.  
Abraham and Sarah, they are ancestors of us all.  
In each of the three religions you are the same true One.  
Why this awkwardness in addressing you as Allah?  
Where does my resistant, biased hesitation originate?  
Help me break through, to go beyond my comfort zone,  
To choose to freely speak your treasured name in Islam.

*Today: Allah is on my lips and in my heart.*

JANUARY 11



# Abba

*Mark 14:36*

**A**bbā, father, kind parent, gentle daddy.  
Strength balanced with a caring concern.  
A trusted lap in the early years of childhood.  
An inner, assuring voice to be counted on.  
Guiding hand of love held forth for confidence.  
The deliberate stance of ready protection.  
No wonder Jesus chose to call you Abba  
Knowing he could lean on you for stamina.  
He needed you every step of the way.  
And so do I.

*Today:* I lean on the strength of *Abba*.

JANUARY 12

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Everlasting Life

*John 10:28*

There is nothing temporary about you.  
Nothing shallow about the endless depths  
Of your being. Nothing brief about the extent  
Of your longevity. You are. You will be.  
Always and forever. For us, with us, among us.  
Constant. Sustaining. Enduring. Unending.  
And you promise to each one a life  
Forever united with the richness of yours.  
How could we ask for anything more?  
Why would we want anything less?

Today: *Everlasting Life* offers hope.

JANUARY 13

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Lantern of Love

*Robert Morneau*

In the unclouded cottage of my soul  
A watchful light remains ever vigilant.  
In the thick forest of my darkest hours  
There gleams a trustworthy sentinel.  
In the most lost experience of searching  
A beam of direction calmly lights the way.  
In the painful moments of impermanence  
A signal of presence softens the loneliness.  
In the bleakness of disturbing trials  
You, Lantern of Love, shine steadfastly.

*Today: The Lantern of Love lights my way.*

JANUARY 14

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Mother

*Julian of Norwich*

How wide is your womb of extensive love.  
How full your breasts of inner nurturance.  
How caressing the vast arms of your caring.  
How precious your storehouse of wisdom.  
Mother, you clothe us with needed courage.  
You protectively shield our self from harm,  
Drawing us near to you when we are afraid.  
You never doubt our merit and worth,  
Even when we are doubting it ourselves.  
You are the welcome we'll always receive.

*Today: I am held in the arms of Mother.*

JANUARY 15

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You Who Live Next Door

*Rainer Maria Rilke*

I have my old ways of keeping you  
From getting too close, from maybe  
Requiring too much from me.  
You can be my casual neighbor  
Whom I occasionally stop to visit,  
The one I greet in coming or going  
But not my intimate companion,  
Not in my household or in my bed.  
I keep my distance, lest too much  
Of my hidden self tumbles out.

*Today: You Who Live Next Door* invites me in.

JANUARY 16

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Perpetual Becoming

*Jean Markale*

Like a whirling dervish your love evolves,  
Twirling with wonder among the cosmic void.  
At the same time you encompass each soul.  
Your presence expands both far and near,  
Continuous motion and uninterrupted stillness  
Conveying a seeming dichotomy of your being.  
The fullness of your essential nature grows,  
Ever enlarging as the universe stretches out.  
Oh, the boundlessness of your dynamic love!  
Oh, the astonishing, unlimited expansion of you!

*Today: Perpetual Becoming expands in me.*

JANUARY 17



# Sun of Justice

*Latin Hymn*

**S**un of Justice, source of powerful energy,  
Vastly more potent than the burning sun  
Transforming millions of tons of hydrogen  
Into helium every second of every day.  
Sear our minds with the painful reality  
Of those who need your protective strength.  
Radiate our hearts with true concern for them.  
Burn away the dross of empty indifference.  
Energize us into taking deliberate action  
To aid those suffering from the power of others.

*Today: I join the Sun of Justice and act justly.*