

A very Franciscan Christmas

THE STAR

In his beautiful prayer The Canticle of Creation, St Francis reminds us that all of the created world is a herald of God's love and abiding presence.

*All praise be yours, my Lord,
through Sister Moon and Stars;
In the heavens you have made them, bright and
precious and fair.*

The star that St Francis called Sister, was a miracle, its radiance travelling for many light years to shine brightly in our skies and to guide those journeying from afar to the birth of Jesus. The Christmas Star shines a light on this fundamental truth that every life is sacred, every human birth is a sacrament of love, every moment is a gift (Newell. 2014. 122).

This Advent we are invited to be open to the blessed light, which comes through all of creation, the light of God's presence and grace in our lives.

*May we this day turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes.
May we open and open more and open still to the
blessed light that comes* (Jan Richardson. Circle of Grace.
Wanton Gospeller Press: Orlando. 60).

**Advent allows time to consider our oneness
with all of creation and to know ...
the unnameable, and untameable
presence of the Divine in all things**

(J. Newell. The Rebirthing of God. 2015. 1).

When can you
celebrate the light
of God's blessing in this
Advent Season?

How will you include the
star in your Christmas
creche?



Holy One, Essence of Kindness

*As we journey through this Advent Season inspire us to be bearers of love,
through our messages of hope, our shared smiles, our generosity
our forgiving hearts, our listening ears and our words of understanding.
Help us to be living signs of your love dwelling amongst us. Amen*

(Adapted from: Joyce Rupp. Return to the Root. 2021. 225).