

OUR GUIDING STAR

A Ceremony honoring the Star Points with speaking parts for a Reader and Chaplain.

By Lucile W. Lovell (Idaho)

The WORTHY MATRON declares the Chapter at ease. As the MUSICIAN plays "Star of the East", or suitable music, the Matron, followed by the CHAPLAIN, leaves her station, going on the north side of the room and ending in back of Esther's chair where she is met by the WORTHY PATRON who has left his station at the same time as the Matron, he walking on the south side of the room to the southwest corner when he turns and comes in back of Esther's chair. CHAPLAIN takes her place at the altar in the posture of prayer. During this time, the READER takes her position standing by the Secretary's desk, in front, if possible.

Before the Chapter begins each Star Point should be given a four-inch wide streamer of crepe paper the full length of the roll of paper, in the color appropriate to the Point. These should be kept in a small roll until needed for the ceremony when the Point hands one end of the streamer to the Matron or Patron on whose side she happens to be.

When music ends, Chaplain kneeling:

CHAPLAIN:

Bless, O Lord, this ceremony. May our hearts be opened and willing to receive the message herein portrayed. Amen.

Chaplain then backs out of the circle to the position between Esther and Martha where she stands during the reading by the Reader.

MATRON and PATRON then enter the labyrinth. MATRON takes one end of the WHITE streamer from Esther, one end of the GREEN streamer from Martha, and one end of the RED streamer from Electa, and stands EAST OF ALTAR where the PATRON comes to meet her, receiving as he passes Ruth and Adah, the ends of their streamers. The Patron hands these YELLOW and BLUE streamers to the Matron who holds them in one hand, taut from the Star Points.

After this effect is maintained, the STAR POINTS rise and face the altar, still holding on to their ends of the streamers. Together ALL should make a complete circle as they thus stand around the altar. They stand thus while the READER reads the following:

READER:

In days of old the rays of the guiding Star
Led the Wise Men from afar.
No power nor pomp could e'er attain
For them the secret of the Baby's name.
Deep in their hearts love must abide,
A trustful faith and reverence beside.
Recognizing a power that comes from above,
They were willing to follow with fervent love.

Today our leaders must follow the ray
That comes from each Star with a message to say
If you follow the gleam of the heavenly light
You'll meet all your problems with courage and right.

If you're faithful to friends and constant in deeds,
 If you're pure in your heart and helpful in need,
 Then truly the faith of a Christian shows through,
 And you follow the gleam of the red, green and blue;
 The white and the yellow are that great golden orb
 Which shows Eastern Stars the power of our Lord.

The MATRON and PATRON then step forward and place their hands upon the east side of the altar, still holding the streamers to signify the direct connection of the Star Points with the Bible and its lessons. The CHAPLAIN steps into position back of altar and prays:

Dear God, who reigns in heaven above and guides the course of the millions of stars, may this lesson here tonight lead us to remember that without the heavenly gleam of the stars, our leaders will find traveling through the labyrinth of life a dangerous way.

May they realize that only when they lift their eyes to the stars and follow the rays sent directly from God to them, will they find a sure and safe way to lead their people in paths of rectitude.

Without the colored rays of our beautiful Star, our Chapter would be an empty place - meaningless. May all our members realize that our Star Points portray the vital lessons from our Holy Book. This, we beseech Thee, O God!

(Chaplain steps back into circle)

READER:

Each ray of a star, symbolized for us by the Blue of Adah, the Yellow ray of Ruth, the White of Esther, the Green of Martha, and the Red of Electa, is proclaiming the eternal power of God. Back of every twinkling light there is a Supreme Being, the Ruler of the Universe.

Our Star Points, grouped around the altar with the Holy Bible thereon, symbolize this fact. In the lessons portrayed by our Star Points, we may find our ideals of conduct.

A famous man once said:

"Ideals are like stars. You will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the sea-faring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides and, following them, you reach your destiny."

May we follow the gleam of our Eastern Star!

(Musician plays the music of "Follow the Gleam" as Matron, Patron, and Chaplain return to stations and Star Points are seated.)