

Magdalene Gathering

December 21, 2025

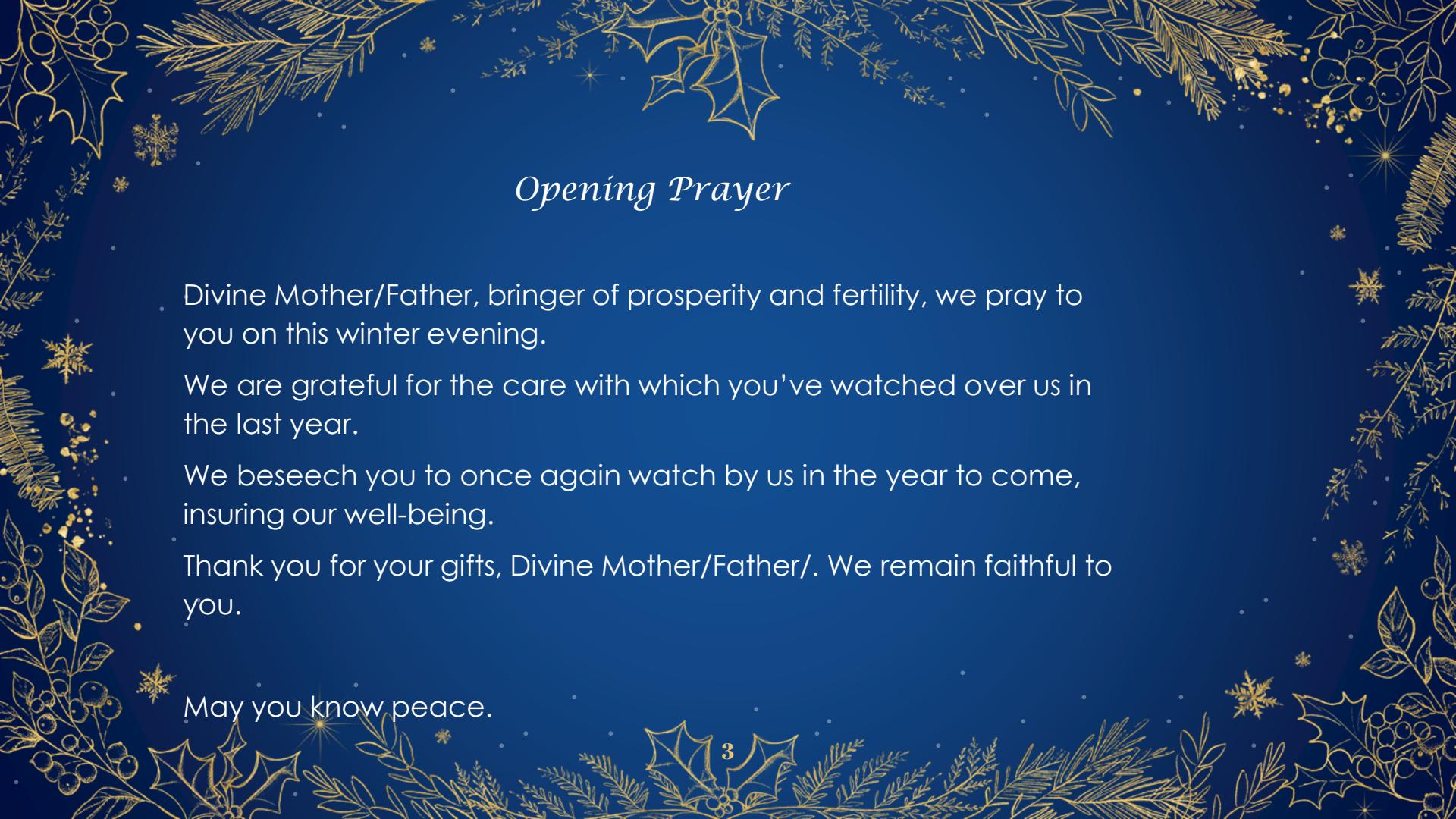
Celebrating the Winter Solstice

For thousands of years, the ancients celebrated midwinter on the shortest day of the year. Festivals of light were held, with feasting and festivities to brighten the darkest days. People are moved to come together with family and friends.

Solstice means “sun stands still,” referring to the sun’s low, slow, almost imperceptible movement at solstice time.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/members-magazine/podcast-extras/the-history-of-midwinter-traditions/>

Yule: Rituals, Recipes & Lore for the Winter Solstice, Llewellyn Publications



Opening Prayer

Divine Mother/Father, bringer of prosperity and fertility, we pray to you on this winter evening.

We are grateful for the care with which you've watched over us in the last year.

We beseech you to once again watch by us in the year to come, insuring our well-being.

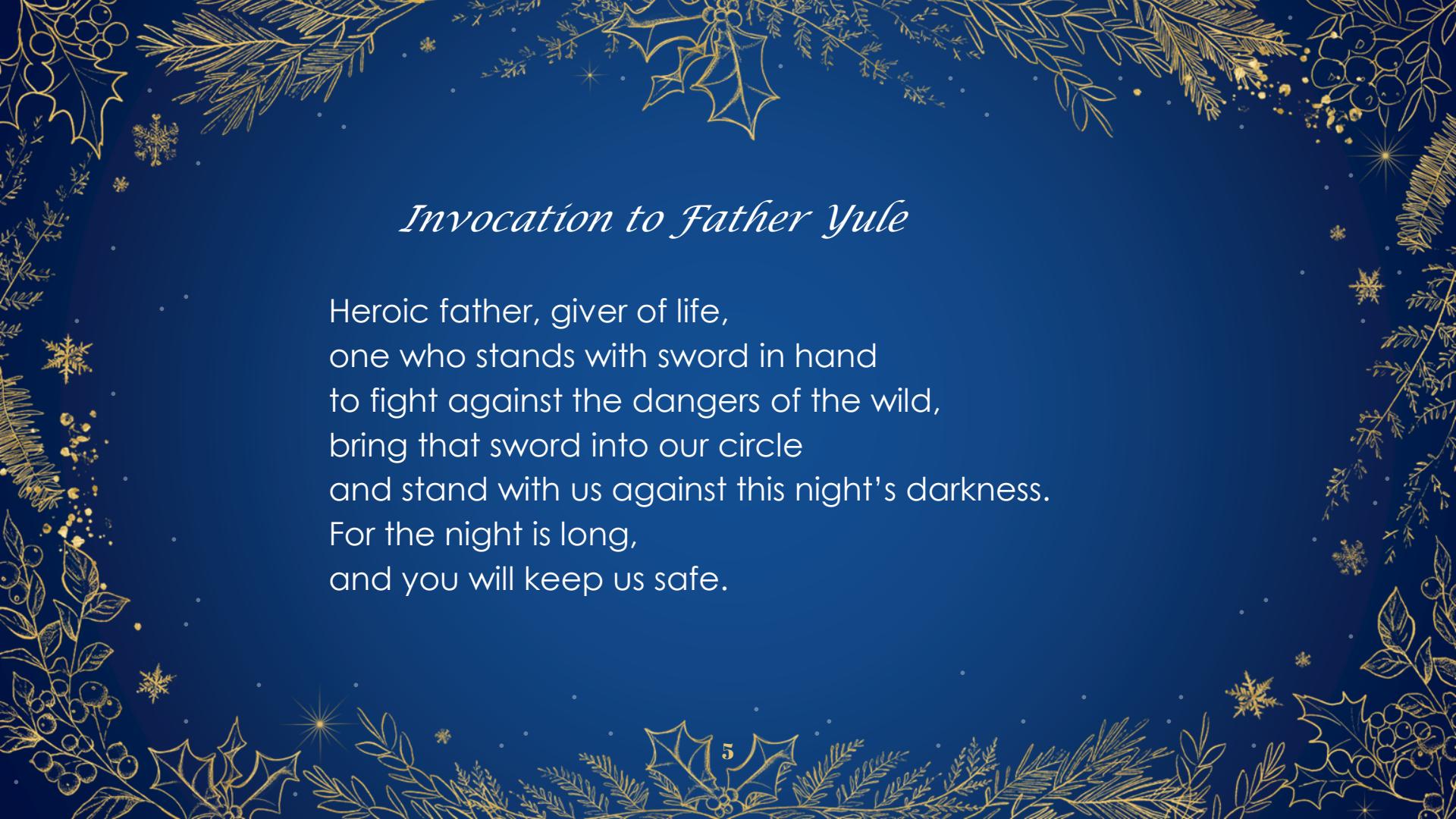
Thank you for your gifts, Divine Mother/Father/. We remain faithful to you.

May you know peace.



Invocation to the Old Woman of Winter

Ancient mother of Midwinter,
watcher over life and death,
the one who rebirths the world,
be with us through the dark hours
and stand with us
as dawn births the promise of new life.
So shall it be!



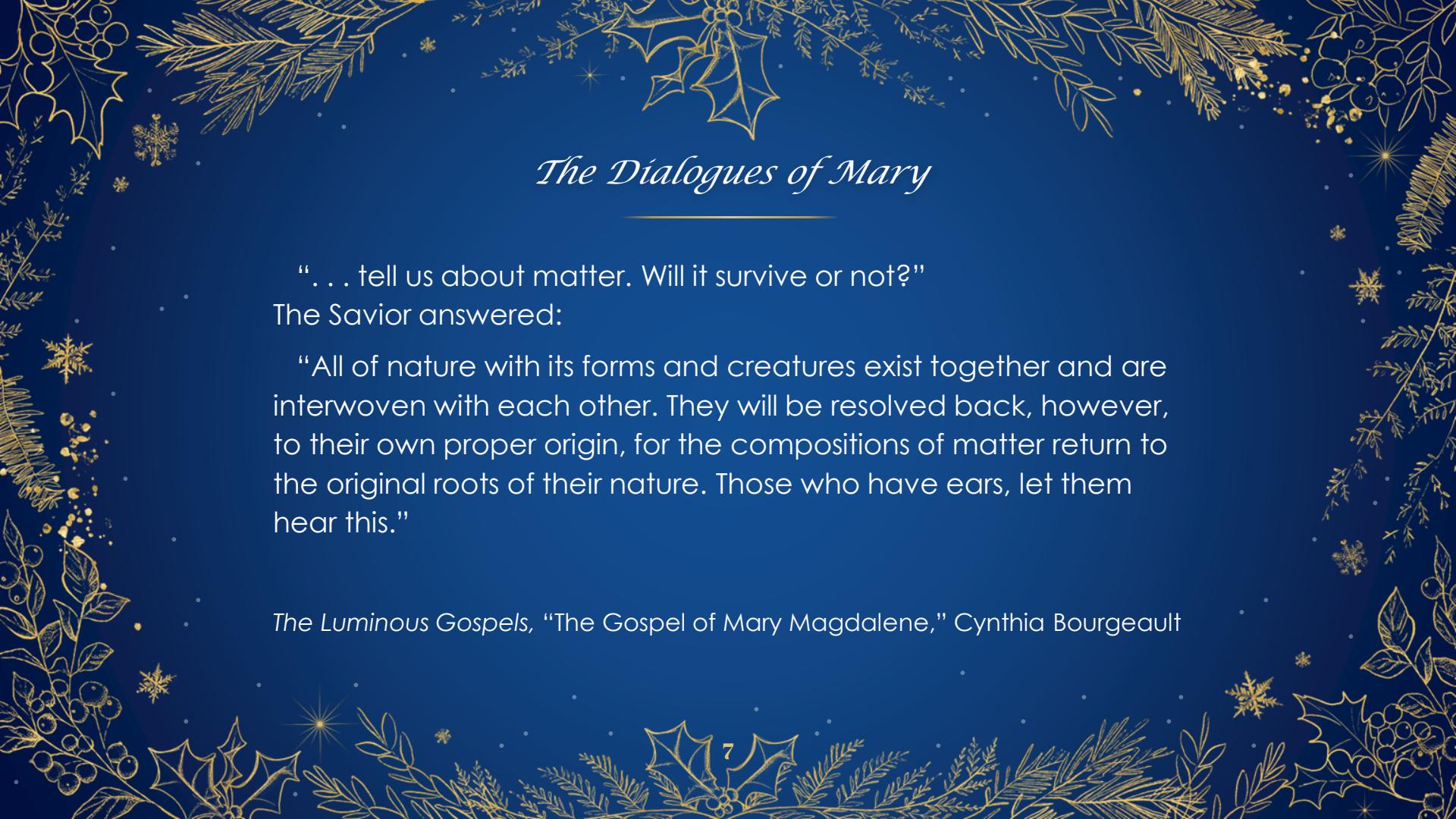
Invocation to Father Yule

Heroic father, giver of life,
one who stands with sword in hand
to fight against the dangers of the wild,
bring that sword into our circle
and stand with us against this night's darkness.
For the night is long,
and you will keep us safe.



Invocation to the Life-Giving Sun on the Solstice Vigil

Oh, absent sun,
the earth grows cold as we wait.
Our vigil fire is but a small spark
compared to your brilliance.
Our bones grow cold
awaiting your warmth.
Patiently we await your return
in the eastern sky.
Impatiently we await the first shard of light
piercing the eastern dawn –
the first sign of life's renewal.



The Dialogues of Mary

“. . . tell us about matter. Will it survive or not?”

The Savior answered:

“All of nature with its forms and creatures exist together and are interwoven with each other. They will be resolved back, however, to their own proper origin, for the compositions of matter return to the original roots of their nature. Those who have ears, let them hear this.”

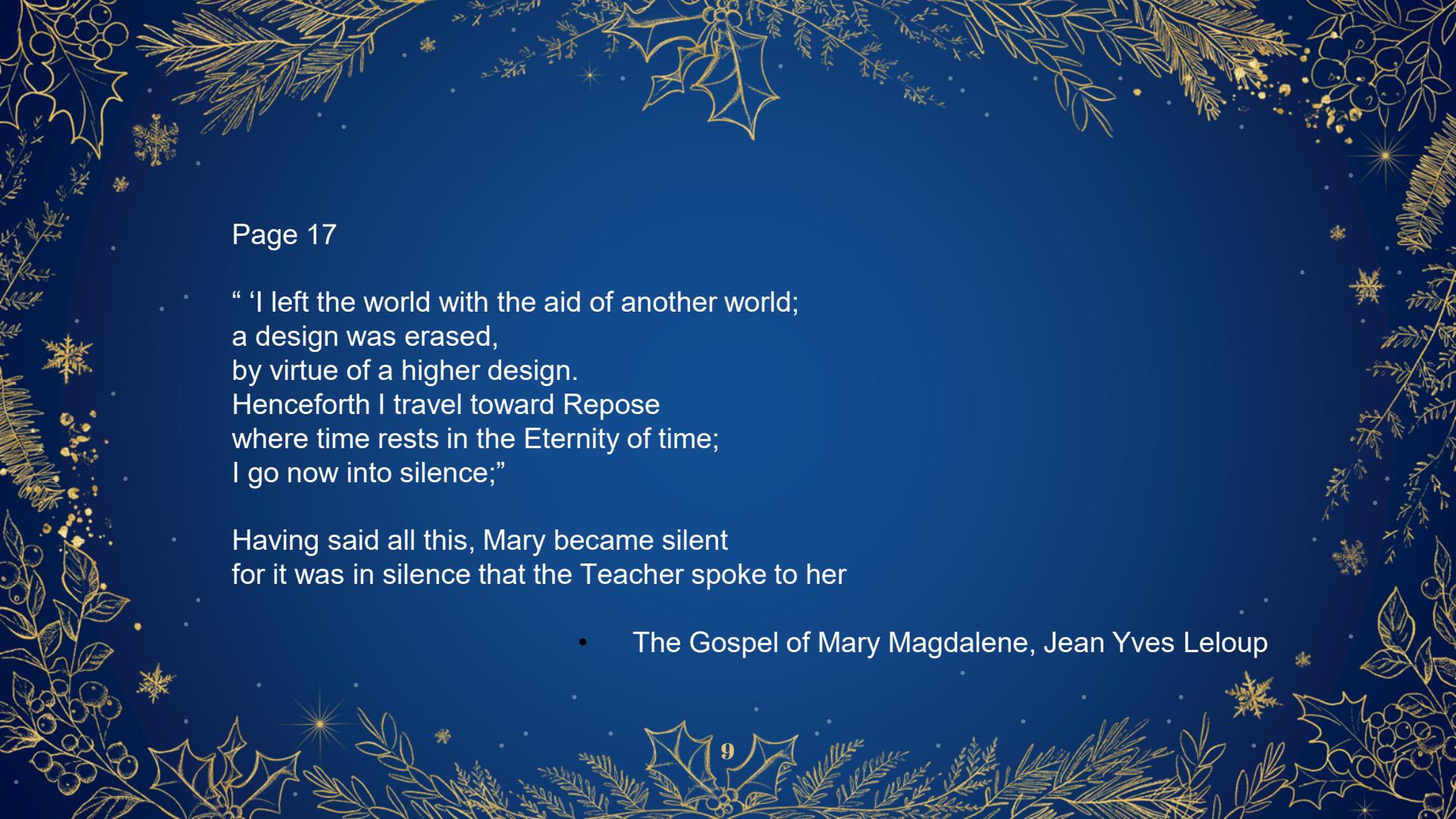
The Luminous Gospels, “The Gospel of Mary Magdalene,” Cynthia Bourgeault

WINTER SOLSTICE IS THE SEASON FOR DEEP REST.

Because your spirit is so tired.

It's been a long, hard year. You've been through a lot. You've worked hard, and you've stretched & grown in so many ways. (Whether you can see this growth or not doesn't matter.)

Simply living on Earth through the past year ... You have grown. And you are *tired*. It's so important that you rest right now, to rejuvenate your weary spirit for the new year ahead.

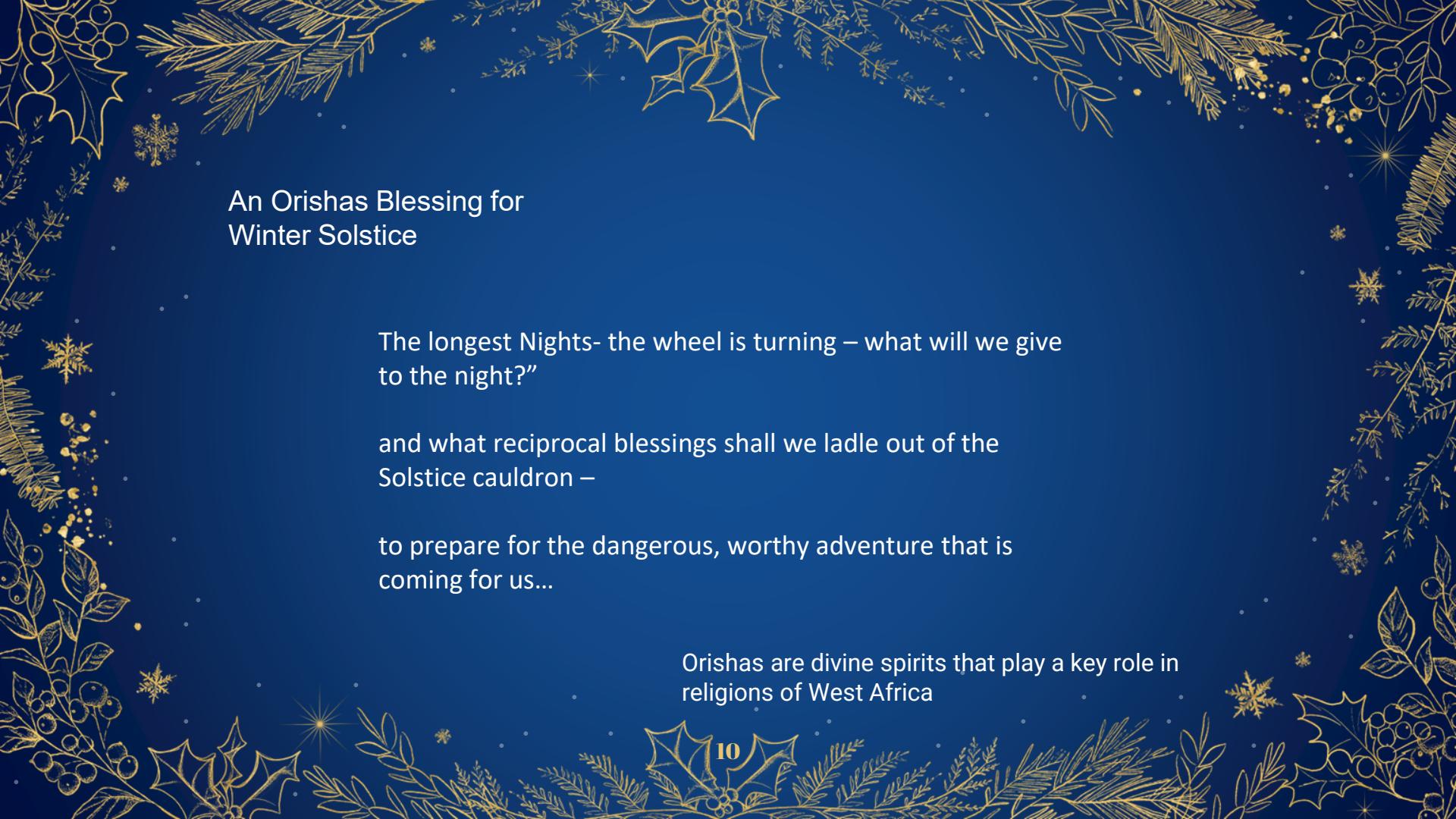


Page 17

“ ‘I left the world with the aid of another world;
a design was erased,
by virtue of a higher design.
Henceforth I travel toward Repose
where time rests in the Eternity of time;
I go now into silence;”

Having said all this, Mary became silent
for it was in silence that the Teacher spoke to her

- The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, Jean Yves Leloup



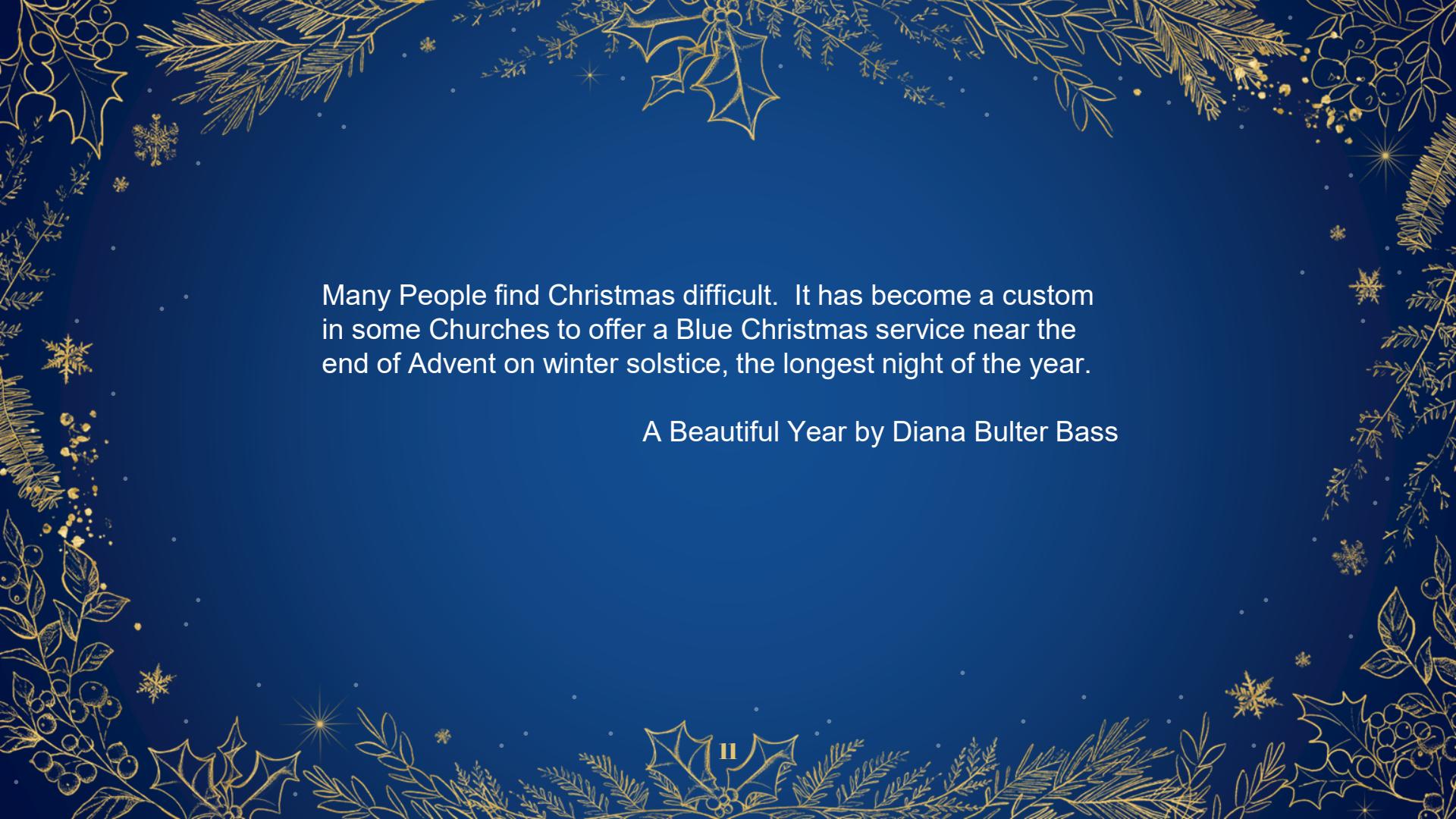
An Orishas Blessing for Winter Solstice

The longest Nights- the wheel is turning – what will we give
to the night?”

and what reciprocal blessings shall we ladle out of the
Solstice cauldron –

to prepare for the dangerous, worthy adventure that is
coming for us...

Orishas are divine spirits that play a key role in
religions of West Africa



Many People find Christmas difficult. It has become a custom in some Churches to offer a Blue Christmas service near the end of Advent on winter solstice, the longest night of the year.

A Beautiful Year by Diana Butler Bass

Rauhnächte A pagan-coined timespan in Europe

Setting

12 /13 nights („Nächte“)
from 24 /25 Dec to 6 Jan

„Void“ time between the years, i.e. solar calendar (365 days) and lunar calendar (354 days)

Sun elevation almost constantly low

Separation between this world and the other world becomes thinner.



Contemporary Rituals

- 13 wishes
- Journaling
- Incense rituals
- Ritual baths

Etymology (guesses)

Rauh = rough, i.e., a wild ride of ghosts and deceased through the here and now
→ *Rough nights*

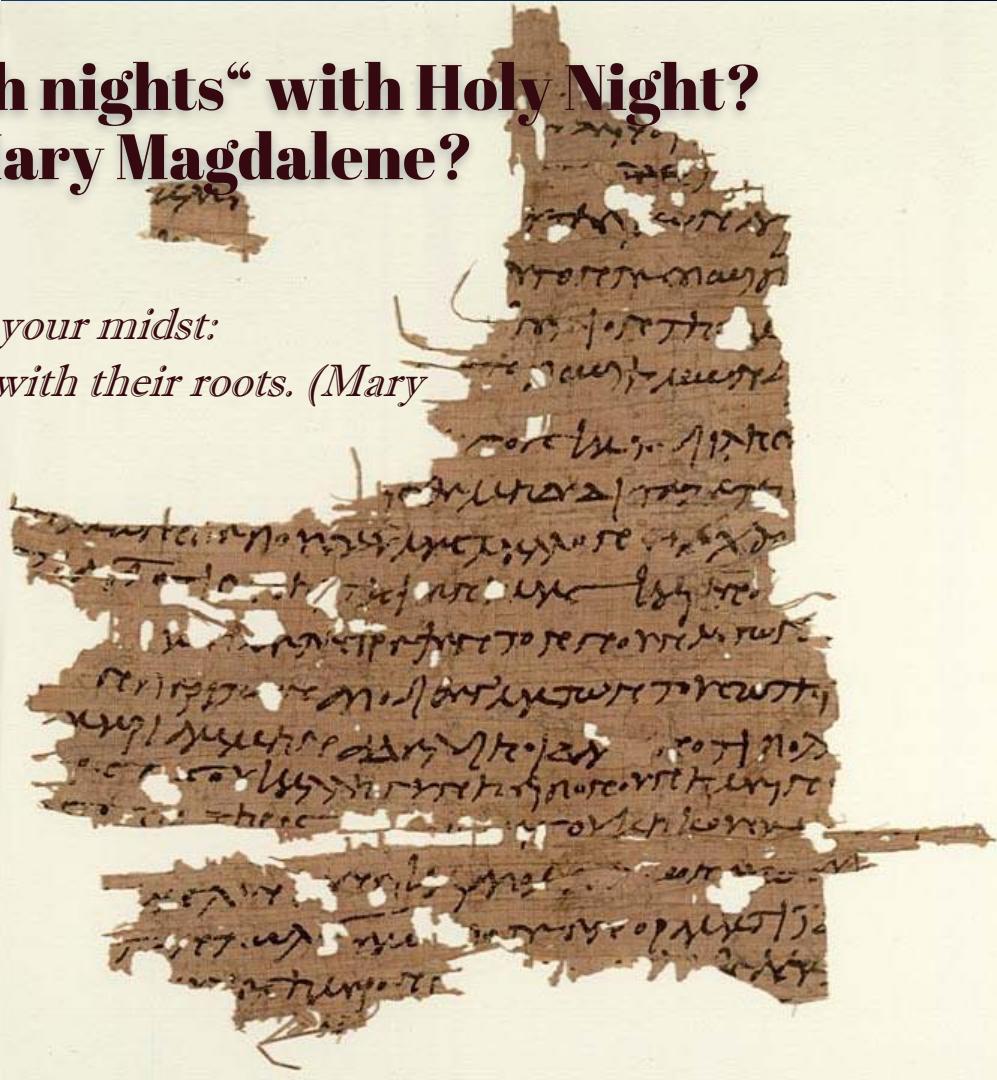
Rau = hairy, i.e., referring to demons
→ *Nights of the demons*

Rauch = incense, e.g., olibanum or sage
→ *Nights of incense rituals*

How to combine „Rough nights“ with Holy Night? ... and with Mary Magdalene?

Christmas in the Gospel of Mary

*Therefore, the goodness appeared in your midst:
to unite the elements of your nature with their roots. (Mary
7, 20-22)*



The elements of your nature

Magdalene 42, 6-12

Adapt rituals to the energies

- 13 wishes
- Journaling
- Incense rituals
- Ritual baths



Ignorance and
Intolerance



Judgment and wrath

Merry Christmas



*Therefore, the goodness appeared in your midst:
to unite the elements of your nature with their roots.*

Mary 7. 20-22

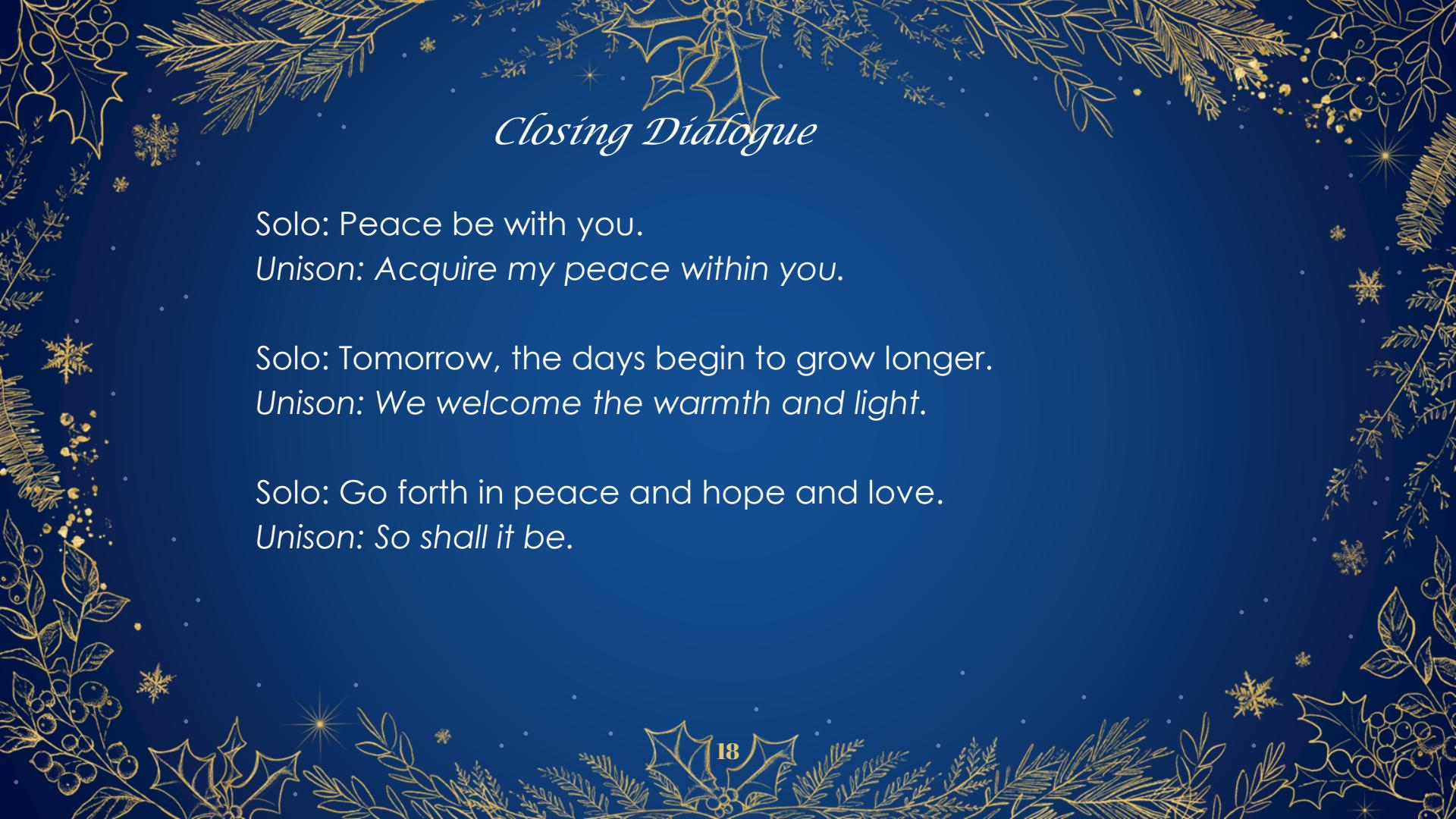


Invitation

Reflection and Discussion



Announcements
and
Prayer Requests



Closing Dialogue

Solo: Peace be with you.

Unison: Acquire my peace within you.

Solo: Tomorrow, the days begin to grow longer.

Unison: We welcome the warmth and light.

Solo: Go forth in peace and hope and love.

Unison: So shall it be.



Next Gathering

January 25, 2026