

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday January 5, 2026 - Lamentations 3: 22-23

**22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his
compassions never fail.**

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Read Lamentations 3 for meditation and inspiration.



ARTIST
John Trumbull
MEDIUM
Oil on Canvas
DIMENSIONS
12' x 18'
LOCATION
[Capitol Rotunda](#)

Surrender of Lord Cornwallis

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Matthew 2:2 “Where is the Infant King of the Jews? ... we saw His star as it rose and have come to do Him homage” Epiphany is the church’s celebration of the visit of the “wisemen” to seek and see the new king, offer gifts and receive his blessing.

There are many ways in which we can position ourselves to experience the Loving Presence of God in our lives. We can pray. We can meditate. We can read the Scriptures. And, of course, we can participate ever more deeply in the experience of worship. And there are still other ways in which God’s Love becomes real to us — which leads us into one of the biggest paradoxes of our Faith — one which so many of us find extremely difficult to grasp. The paradox is this: many times, in our lives, the very best way to make the inward journey to God is through the outward journey to others.

The best way to experience God’s merciful love is to show mercy to others. Or, as one of the early Church Fathers said so beautifully by putting two of Jesus’ best-known parables together: “The Prodigal Son cannot fully experience the Father’s love until he has walked the Jericho Road with the Good Samaritan.”

We have one of our greatest opportunities to be with God through loving service to others. But our spirits begin to dry when we fail to understand, appreciate, and act on this paradox.

Legend has it that when Cornwallis, the British General, surrendered to General George Washington, ending the American Revolutionary War, the British fife and drum corps played “The World Turned Upside Down” while the surrendering soldiers marched to lay down their arms.

True or not, wisemen from the East could see that the world was about to be turned Upside Down with the birth of this new king. The rich and proud would be brought to their knees before this king as the least of these would rejoice. The compassionate and loving would be first and the self-centered and greedy would be last. This is a new world and now we face a New Year to live under this New Law of Love Life and Light, this new Regime of Healing, Help, and Hope.

So, live in and enjoy this brand-new world that Wisemen and Shepherds came to worship and experience at its beginning. Happy New Year in the World now Turned Upside Down or maybe more rightly said turned Right-Side Up.

For a New Year of Grace and Faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger