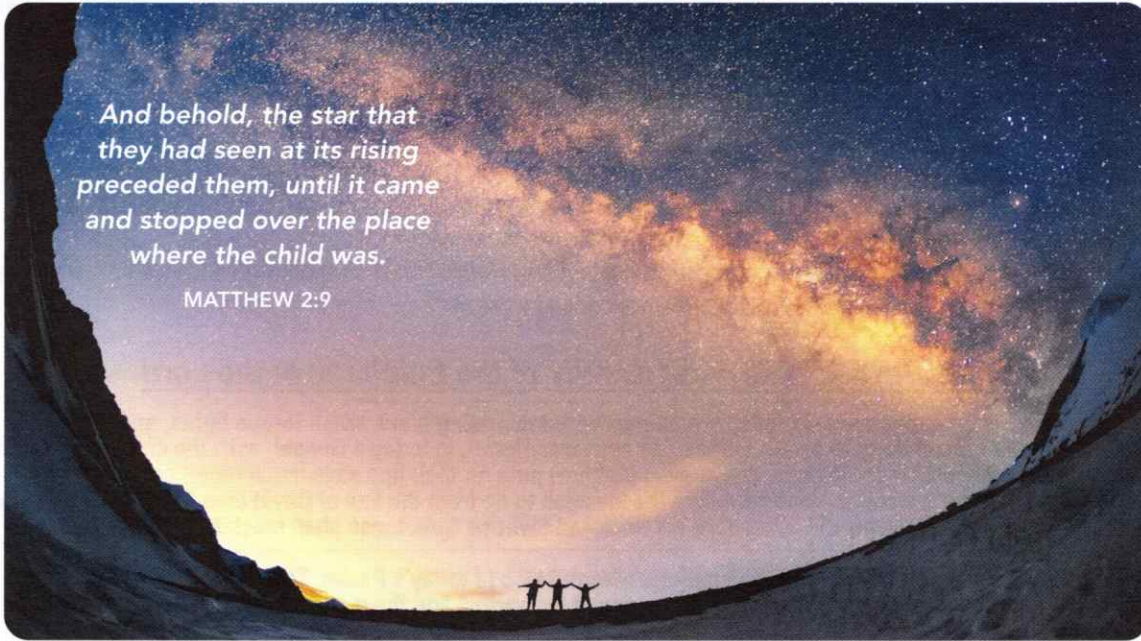


And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

MATTHEW 2:9



ANTON JANIKOWSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Your Light has Come!

**M**any traditional religions have in some way ascribed divinity to light—either they claim that light emanates from a god or that light itself is divine. This is probably because light is a primal necessity, essential for life. We find such thinking in today's readings.

"Your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1) says today's Old Testament reading. This is Isaiah's glorious message for the people of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed; the people scattered; the future looked bleak. This message must have filled the people with hope. Not only does light bring them hope, but the light actually streams from their God. It is the Lord who shines, bestowing his radiance upon them. This light is filled with promise.

The story of the Magi is not meant primarily for children who delight in moving figurines of the three kings a bit closer to the stable every day. This is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment. The strangers, ignorant of ancient Israel's traditions, were able to read the signs of the times. Because of their openness, they found the Light of the World. The learned men of Jerusalem were well-schooled in the ancient promises, for they knew where to send the strangers. However, they felt threatened by these signs. They closed their minds and hearts to any omens that might imperil their positions of privilege. They had a chance to benefit from this new light, but they turned their backs on it.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- ✦ *What is your attitude toward new ways of understanding your faith?*
- ✦ *Pray that all people will be open to read the signs of the times.*