

Subject: The Triune Holiday Season

Submitted by: Jim Chandler, Denver Church of Religious Science

Here is an empowering new perspective on the Holiday Season we are using for holiday programs and messages.

The Triune Holiday Season

In Religious Science our second Core Concept refers to the Triune Nature of God (Spirit, Soul, and Body). All three are inseparable and interdependent in order to understand the whole.

The same is true as we enter the Triune Holiday Season, which starts with Thanksgiving, embodies Christmas, and ends with New Years day. All three are an inseparable part of what we call the Holiday Season. All three empower transformation of thoughts and ideas as our lives move into the unlimited possibilities of the New Year.

1. Thanksgiving

The Holiday Season starts by healing the past.

Many people are not aware the national Thanksgiving holiday was not started by the Pilgrims. In fact, it may not have become a reality if it wasn't for the work of Sarah Joseph Hale, a magazine editor whose efforts eventually led to what we recognize as thanksgiving. Her work persuaded President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, to proclaim the last Thursday in November as our national day of thanks. He believed the holiday would help heal our country and families divided by the wounds and destruction of the Civil War. The holiday would promote forgiveness, heal wounds, and bring the citizens together as a single family.

(Personal note: I believe Thanksgiving to be one of the most powerful and unique holidays our country has. It is truly spiritual, based on unity and forgiveness, and is used in our fourth step of Treatment. Unlike other holidays, it does not honor an individual or specific event in history. Its purpose is to transform lives and relationships.)

2. Christmas

Then we empower our lives by recognizing the Christ Spirit which is the essence of every individual. This same message was an important element in the teachings of Jesus, our union with the Creator, God, and the power of God's love we joyously give to others. We celebrate, at least in part, with the symbolic exchange of gifts representing and acknowledge the gift others are, as well as receiving gifts to recognize others understanding of the gift we radiate to others.

3. New Year's Day

Now we move forward, no longer weighted down with concept and ideas which no longer serve our needs. Our gifts represent a newfound belief in unity.

We conclude our Triune Holiday Season and turn our calendars to the new year, assessing what we empowered and created last year, We are presented with the gift of 365 days filled with life and unlimited potential for us to use.

Together these three holidays, and Holiday Season, contain elements we may use to embrace change and the creative power we know to be the center of our being. We start by healing our past, joining together as a family of humanity, seeing the God presence expressing as the people in our lives, and concluding with release so we may move affirmatively and powerfully into the future.

We know this transforming understanding empowers and supports each of our churches and ministries as well as the congregations and communities they serve, manifest with new love and purpose as a demonstrated in life itself.