

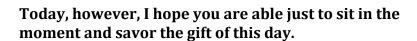
December 25, 2024 Christmas Day A Note from Pastor April and Jan Richardson

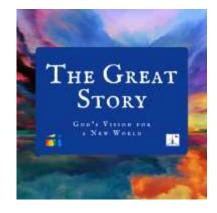
Dearly Beloved,

A warm and blessed Christmas to each of you today.

What a year it has been! I hope to see some of you this Sunday in worship on our final week of the Great Story series (https://hilliardumc.org/current-message-series/).

We'll create a special service of reflection, looking back at these last three years. We invite you to bring a journal if you have one, since there will be space to use it throughout the service.





I offer a blessing from Jan Richardson (https://www.janrichardson.com/).

Where the Light Begins A Blessing for Christmas Day

Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.
Perhaps it takes
a lifetime
to open our eyes,
to learn to see
what has forever
shimmered in front of us—
the luminous line



of the map in the dark the vigil flame in the house of the heart the love so searing we cannot keep from singing, from crying out in testimony and praise. Perhaps this day will be the mountain over which the dawn breaks. Perhaps we will turn our face toward it, toward what has been always. **Perhaps** our eyes will finally open in ancient recognition, willingly dazzled, illuminated at last. Perhaps this day the light begins in us.

—Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons* (https://www.janrichardson.com/)



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