

THE MEANING OF OUR EASTERN STAR SYMBOLS

By Mrs. J. H. Alexander

A Program to impress new members (old ones, too) on the meaning of our symbols. Words for a song also given. 4-line verses for most officers, some a little longer. May also be given on ROB MORRIS NIGHT.

MATRON:

Rob Morris, who founded the Chapter we love,
Was deeply religious, sought help from above;
Our symbols, teachings and precepts, clear,
Are based on the Bible he held so dear.

Too busy to study, we admit, as we should,
Our symbols are few - and that is not good;
But our Star, which fills us all with rapture,
Is the symbol and heart of our Chapter.

(Holds up Star)

It shone on the stable, holding heaven's stranger,
It led the Wise Men to the humble manger;
The Star of Bethlehem told the Child's story,
Star of the East is each member's glory.

And this program will tell to members, new,
What our symbols mean, how to keep them true.
To our Program Chairman, we will now turn,
Under her guidance we will hear, and learn.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN *(rises, comes to Secretary's desk, faces northwest):*

The first symbol we see is at the outer door
The Sentinel's crossed swords first meet our eyes
He'll tell us why - he's learned and wise.

SENTINEL *(holding up crossed swords):*

One sword means that you leave outside
Hatred and spite, and all selfish pride;
The other means "don't tell what you hear,
These truths are sacred, hold them dear."

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Our Warder, considerate, and kind to the rest,
We wonder why she wears a dove on her breast.

WARDER (*rising and holds dove with both hands*):

Quietest, sweetest of birds is the dove,
A symbol of harmony and perfect love;
We can speak plainly, all of us do,
But remember, others have this right, too.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

The Associate Conductress has a baton along
A symbol of leadership, unless I am wrong.

ASSOC. CONDUCTRESS (*rising, holds baton, straight from shoulder*):

Undisciplined ones are dangerous to all,
Without harmony our work will fall;
We must have teamwork if we want to do
Chapter work, to its teachings be true.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Our Conductress has a baton and scroll,
Symbol of planned work that must unroll.

CONDUCTRESS (holding baton, and scroll):

We plan our work, with a sincere aim,
Haphazard work is not quite the same;
Here and there a little, moving with care,
Promoting interest, seeking help in prayer.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Our Marshal, I'm sure, has a symbolic story
She has the privilege of escorting Old Glory.

MARSHAL:

Escorting our flag of stripes and bars,
Into the presence of sister Stars,
I'm conscious of duty to country and God

Who planted our feet on freedom's sod.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Our Organist, whose symbol is the lyre,
Brings music to lift and inspire.

ORGANIST (lifts a lyre for all to see):

Music's sweet influence is a fine thing -
A simple cord, a happy note can bring
Joy to sad hearts. Discord causes woe,
Brings down clouds on the way we go.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Sometimes our Chaplain wears a holy look,
Maybe it's because her emblem is a Book.

CHAPLAIN (*holds Bible in both hands*):

This is His Word in which He plainly said:
My children do not live alone by bread;
But, by His Word, revealed to us here
Is our Chapter Bible, enduring and dear.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Our Secretary, with not one pen, but two,
Keeps a straight record of all we do.

SECRETARY (*holding two pens*):

One records good - sweet words of cheer,
The use of the other - brings a sad tear:
It tells of the black ball and the bars
That keep wrong people from being Stars.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Our Treasurer, with crossed keys, also brings
A two-symbol meaning of many needed things.

TREASURER (*with crossed keys*):

Our Chapter must, if we would endure,
Protect our money, keep it secure;
Great sums we give; few people know
That our thousands to charity go.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

The full sun, and star within the star,
Speak of officers - in the West they are.

ASSOCIATE MATRON:

At eventide, our peaceful day
Ends with the golden sun;
Meetings must end the same way,
With peace for everyone.

ASSOCIATE PATRON:

Our symbol, a star within a star,
Has a two-fold meaning, that's true;
It reminds us, wherever we are,
Our obligation binds me and you.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Combined wisdom, strength, love - these three
To our Chapter's heart form a golden key;
Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, in the East,
We honor you, from the great to the least.

PATRON (*with square and compasses*):

By the compass we chart our way
In life's unknown, dangerous sea;
The square teaches that Masons today
Pay honor to each Star they see.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Sunrise in the East brings warm light,
Shows our Matron's there, which is right.

MATRON (*holding up gavel*):

I give my gavel a most careful touch
For each of its signals means so much,
It has power to destroy, power to weld,
I think of this each time it's held.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

In our lives and Chapter we need wisdom, strength and love
And we can get such help from above;
In the labyrinth, walking under the rod,
We get truer understanding of our God.

(Each Star Point stands, holding her emblem)

ADAH:

The human tongue is a two-edged sword
That can bless or break a Star heart;
The blue veil of charity is lowered
To keep us all pure - set apart.

RUTH:

The widow, Ruth, forgot her great woe
In helping another a hard way to go;
Ancestress of Christ, her reward secure,
She teaches us to work and endure.

ESTHER:

Queen Esther's jeweled, crown of gold
Sat heavy on her young head;
She was willing to die, we are told
And thus saved many from being dead.

MARTHA:

Life is uncertain, this is a token
That our inner circle may be broken,
But faith points the way to the starry sky
Where we'll all gather, by and by.

ELECTA:

This cup that hospitality brings
Has a meaning nothing dims;
The cup of remembrance, with love,
We'll drink with Him, above.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

As we travel on the starry way,
The veil of ignorance we raise,
On bended knee we seek a stay,
Strength for troubled days.

The cup we drink, from great to least,
And our eyes with tears are dim.
We truly have seen His star in the East
And have come to worship Him.

SONG

Tune: Take Time to Be Holy

Take time to remember
Our deep, solemn vow;
Fan faith's flick'ring ember
To brightest flame, now.
Hold fast to the teaching
Of our Chapter, here,
And soon we'll be reaching
His Star, we hold dear.