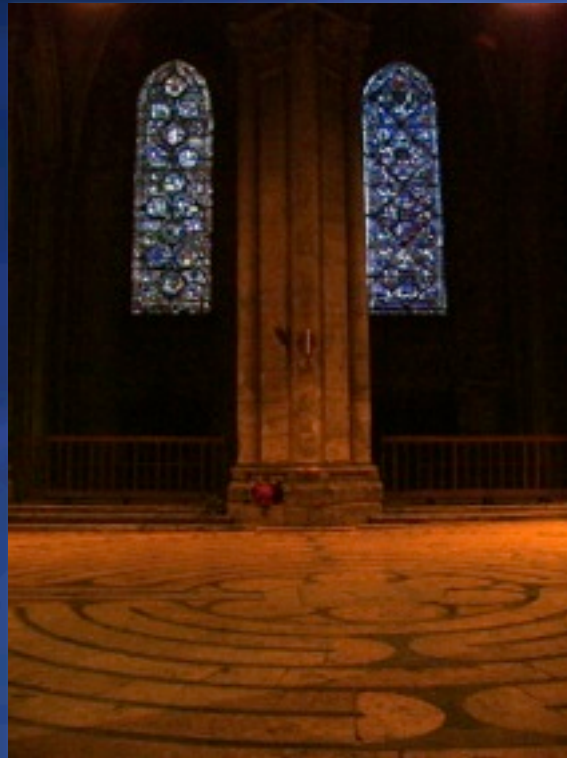


Holy Mystery



Advent, 2006

Prepared and presented by ©The Rev. Jill K H Geoffrion, Ph.D.

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Mystery: n

an event or situation that is difficult to understand or explain;
A religious truth that is incomprehensible to reason
and knowable only through divine revelation



Looking west from the center
of the Chartres labyrinth

Holy adj.
Relating to, belonging to, or coming from
a divine being or power.



The Chartres Cathedral, France



Typical Friday at the Chartres Labyrinth

Labyrinth: n

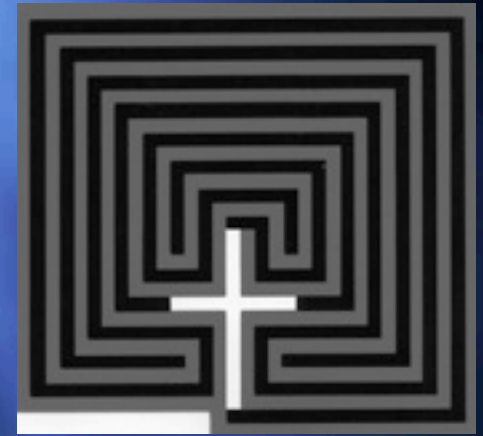
A single pathway that turns back on itself



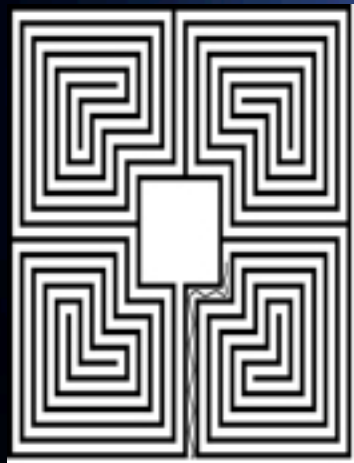
© Tracy Smith



Diagram of Chartres Cathedral labyrinth
drawn by Robert Ferré



© Hansen



© Jeff Seward

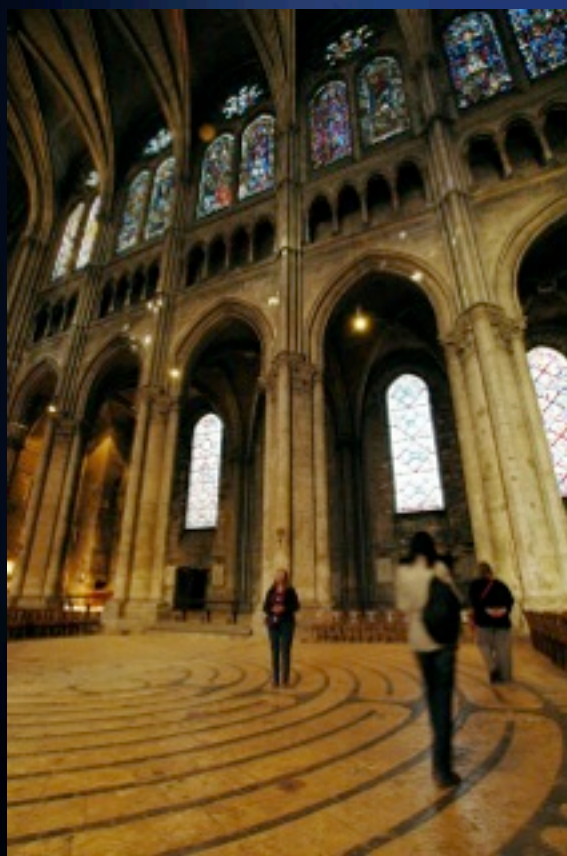


© Lisa Moriarty

Holy Mystery & Labyrinths:

What sacred realities

do we long to understand, experience and embody



Chartres Cathedral labyrinth



Chartres Style canvas labyrinth

Take a minute to consider:
Why am I here today?



Chartres Cathedral in the mist



Angel of Chartres

Holding our palms open and up as a gesture of prayer,
let us slowly say together this pilgrim's prayer:

I come. This is my story.
I come. I was made to come.
I come. Where else could I go?
I come. I'm carried along in You, The Current.
I come.

This is mystery;
it is also the most ancient of all stories.
So it is.



Pilgrim shell, Chartres



Looking towards Chartres Cathedral

The Hennepin Avenue Chartres-style canvas labyrinth:
What are your stories of Holy Mystery?



Chartres-style canvas labyrinth

What other mysteries have you experienced on or related to labyrinths?



Mystery:
an event or situation that is difficult to understand or explain;
A religious truth that is incomprehensible to reason
and knowable only through divine revelation

What questions do you have about
Holy Mystery and the Chartres labyrinth
or its pattern?



Crypt stairs (north side)
Chartres Cathedral

What is special about the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth and the experiences of Holy Mystery that it supports?



Tourists photographing the famous west windows of Chartres, oblivious the labyrinth they are standing on!

The experience of holy history:
The Chartres labyrinth
is in an ancient place of prayer.



Walking the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth pathway which was put in around 1201 CE

“Chartres Cathedral: Wow. I got to spend a day with the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral. I was amazed to actually be there. It was really wonderful to walk/pray the labyrinth that I have heard so much about since becoming interested in labyrinth prayer. It has existed for about 800 years. While walking it, I thought of all the other feet that have trod the path to the center and out into the world again, all the



Walking the Chartres Labyrinth

Notre Dame de Chartres: Mary, Birth, and the Labyrinth



The Cathedral Relic: Le Sancta Camisa that was worn by Mary



Explanation of the relic



The "Holy Shirt"

Minipilgrimage: Opening to Holy Mystery
Imagine that *you* have been given Mary's tunic.
In *your* mind, take it to the labyrinth.



Crypt Relic (Small Piece)



Sanctuary Relic (Bigger Piece)

“The secret of Chartres Cathedral is exactly this:
there is no secret!

I am reminded of the opening line of Michael Schneider’s
book on Sacred Geometry,

‘The universe may be a mystery, but it’s no secret.’

The cathedral is wide open and available to all
who sincerely seek its inspiration and blessing.”

Robert Ferré



Robert on the cathedral steps

The sacred setting of the Chartres Labyrinth



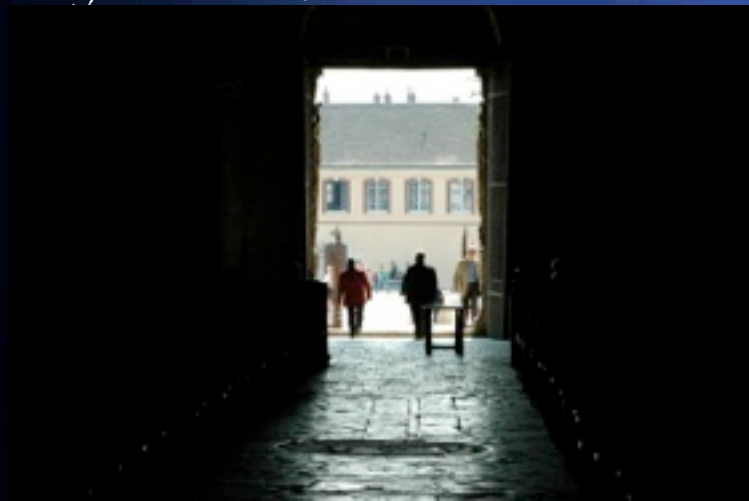
Light and darkness: paradoxes of the cathedral and labyrinth



Prayer Candles, Chartres Cathedral



Candle-lit labyrinth and darkening stained glass windows

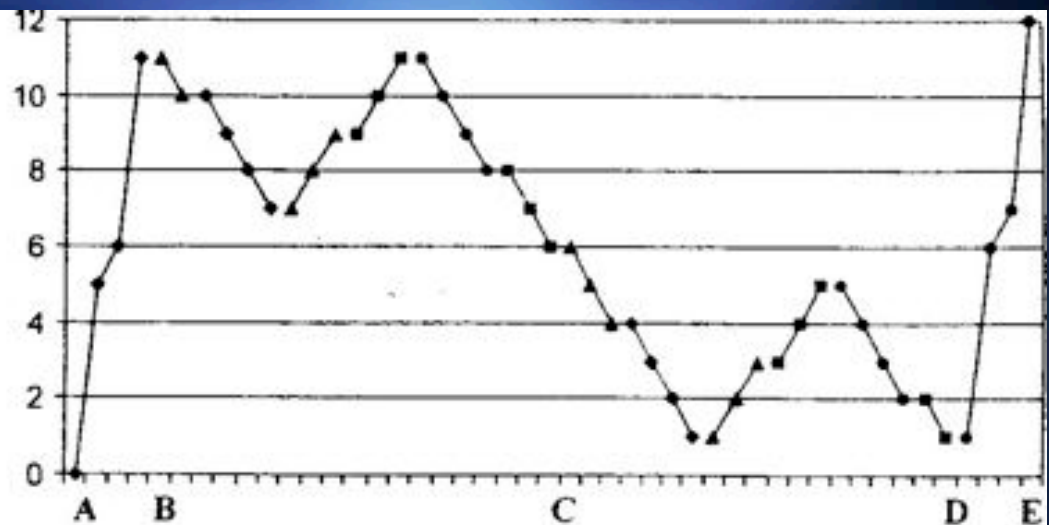


Looking out from Chartres Cathedral

The Chartres labyrinth has a balancing cadence.

Figure 8: the Chartres cadence

—◆— 1st —▲— 2nd —■— 3rd —●— 4th



This picture makes clear that the Chartres cadence is very simple and elegant. Again the most significant is the self-duality: the fact that one can rotate the first half of the cadence about step 22-23 in the middle circuit (6th), to obtain the second half of the cadence.

Kuipers, W. (2000). Cadence Characterises Labyrinths. *Caerdroia*. 31: 33-40.

"In this article the concept of the cadence of a labyrinth is introduced, the rhythmic variation of the visual distance to the centre, which characterizes the labyrinth and part of its effect. A graphical representation of the cadence of the Classical and Chartres labyrinths shows their elegance and power. Their cadence is compared to similar labyrinths and its attractiveness and effectiveness is discussed." Page 33.

The Colors & Stories That Surround the Labyrinth in Chartres



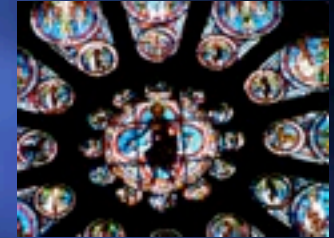
Mary, Throne of Grace



Mary, East windows



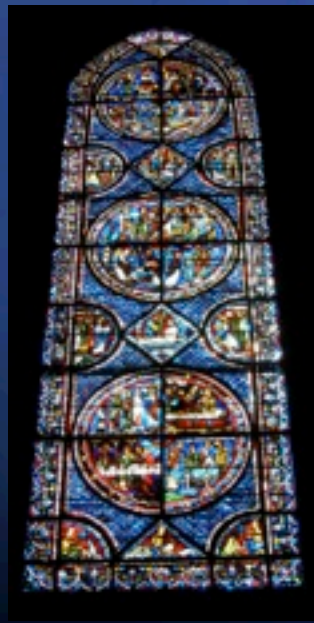
The west rose window



Christ in judgment



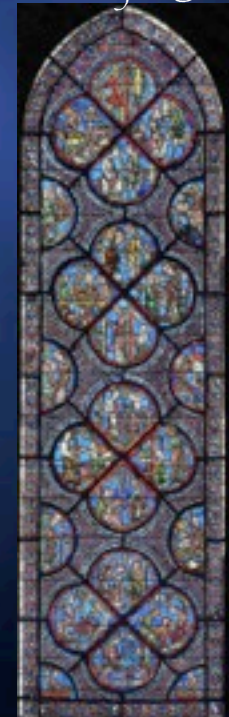
Noah window



Magdalene Window



Colors of the Noah window



St. Nicholas

Minipilgrimage: Opening to Holy Mystery
Take in the beauty of the Chartres Cathedral.
Receive its gifts FOR YOU today!



West and upper nave windows
from the labyrinth, Chartres Cathedral

*Holy Mystery & Sacred Geometry:
The mathematical messages of the
Chartres labyrinth*



The meeting of four paths, Chartres Labyrinth

John James, who studied every stone of the Chartres Cathedral, asks his students,
“What numbers did you find in the cathedral?”



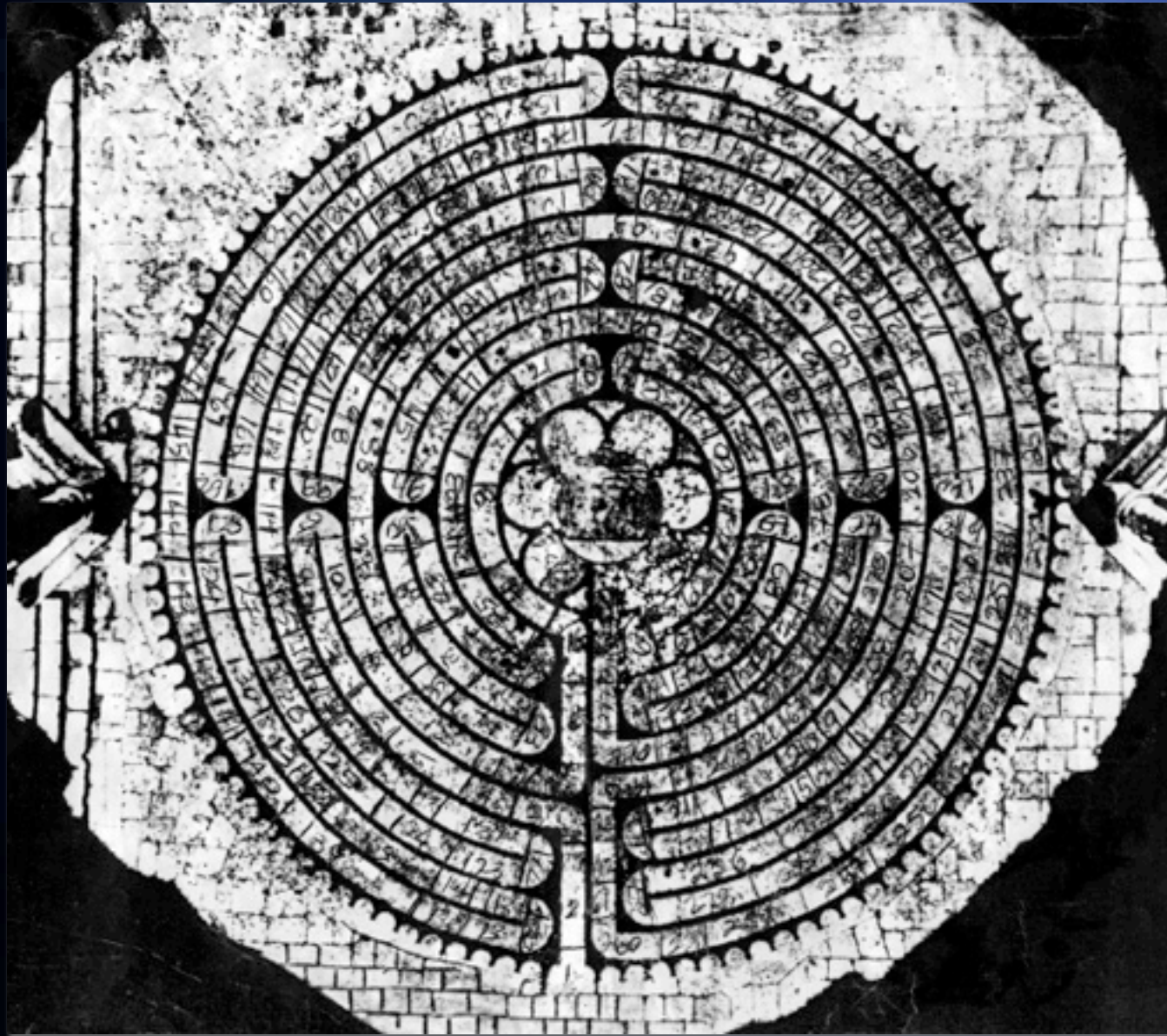
John James lecturing on the Chartres Cathedral roof

Minipilgrimage: Opening to Holy Mystery
Look at the Chartres labyrinth pattern.



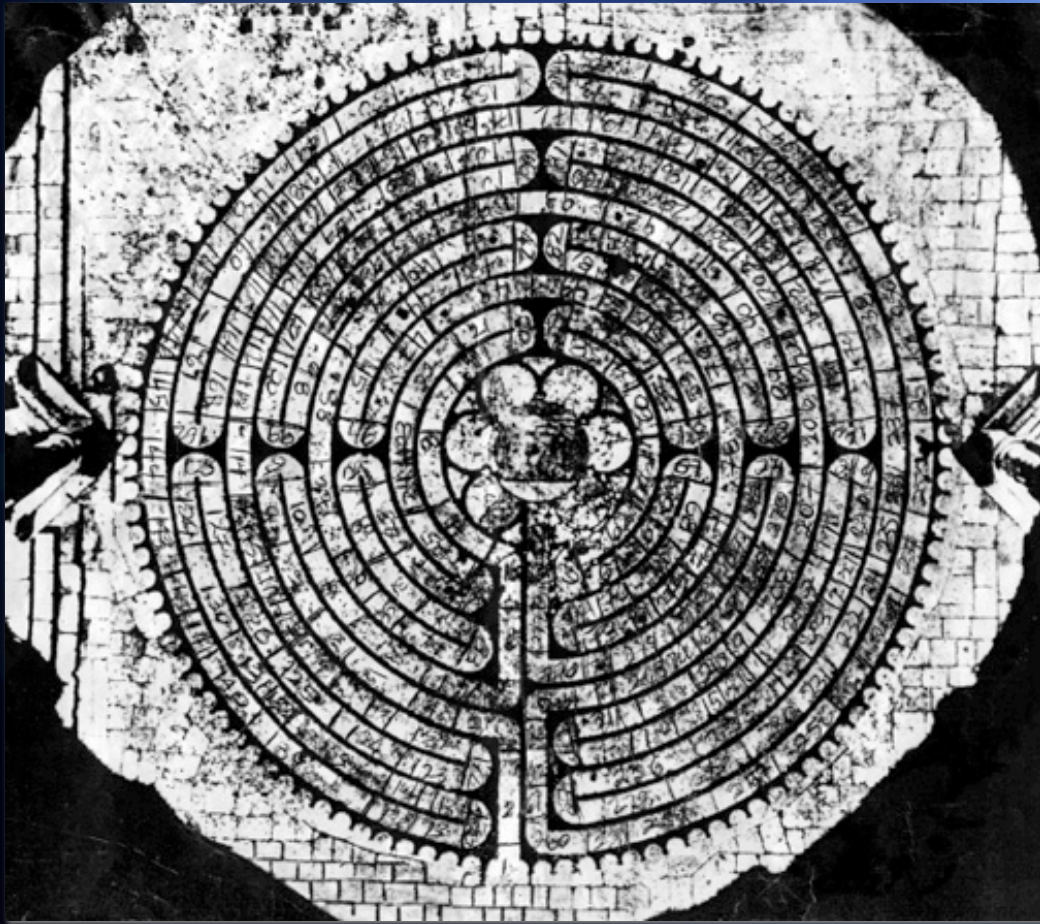
The Chartres labyrinth pattern

Holy Mystery & the shapes of the Chartres labyrinth...



Minipilgrimage: Opening to Holy Mystery

What shapes and images do you see
as you gaze at the labyrinth pattern with



Minipilgrimage: Opening to Holy Mystery

How do the shapes you are seeing,

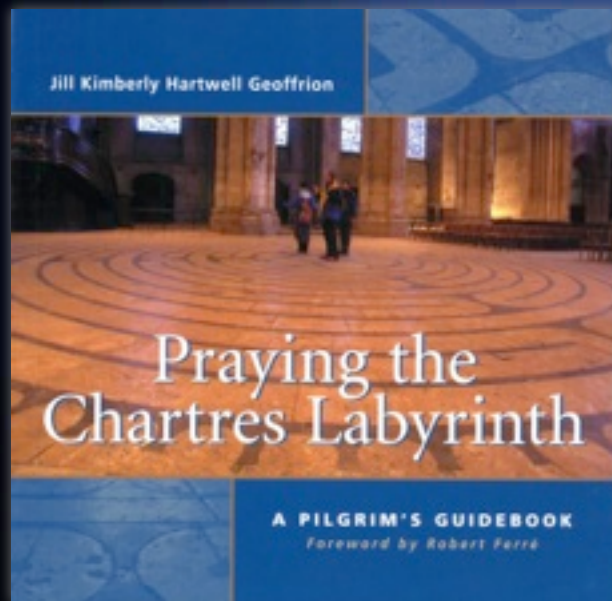
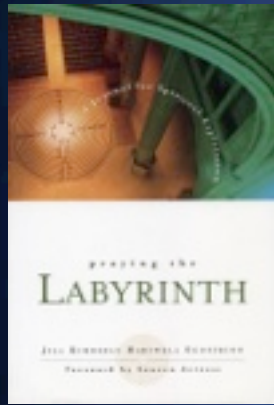


Holy Mystery and the labyrinth:
what questions do we have now?



West and nave side windows and labyrinth, Chartres Cathedral

Feel free to contact Jill K H Geoffrion



At the threshold of the Chartres Labyrinth