



**COMMUNITY SERVICE BASED
CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION**

2012 Jan 15

***Helping our community with caring love while enabling them to
find and follow Jesus!***

Church for people disillusioned with church, who want to make a difference!

True love and caring . . .

Romans 12:9-17

Love must be honest and true. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord. When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful. **Share with God's people who are in need. Welcome others into your homes.**

Bless those who hurt you. Bless them, and do not call down curses on them. Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. Agree with each other. Don't be proud. **Be willing to be a friend of people who aren't considered important.** Don't think that you are better than others.

Don't pay back evil with evil. Be careful to do what everyone thinks is right. **If possible, live in peace with everyone.** Do that as much as you can.

Agenda (see news letter)

ACTIVITY	DURATION EXPECTED
INTRODUCTARY/ OPENING PRAYER	5 min
Gathering / Communicating Community needs	10 min
Gathering prayer needs	5 min
Prayer for community and praying for needs	15 min
Short Message/ Discussion /Helpful thoughts to remember from the bible	30 min
Gathering of the monetary contributions for the community work (tithes)	5 min
Praise and Worship Music (counting of monetary contributions, join in or get something to drink / eat at the same time)	15 min
Prayer for wisdom in distribution of monetary contributions	5 min
Discussion on work parties and activities planned to support the community over the next period (specifically for the next week)	15 min
Voting on where the monetary contribution is to go for God's work in the community	5 min
Closing prayer	5min

Community needs?

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SGC Activities done in December	DATE	DAY
Moving food to food bank. ✓ Propane equipment for X ✓	9 Dec	Fri
Moving food for food bank in Burkes Falls ✓	16 Dec	Fri
Christmas food basket delivery (providing transport) ✓	17 Dec	Sat
J+ A food basket and Christmas gifts \$300 ✓	20 Dec	Tue
Gift cards to Walmart for Mother ad daughter \$150 ✓	20 Dec	Tue
L+ son Groceries \$120 ✓	20 Dec	Tue
Oil need for family \$550 ✓	21 Dec	Wed
Bed for E+A \$430 ✓	21 Dec	Wed

Wood at Cindy(ED??)

Judas Purses Currently

- Taylor **\$350**
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- Kathleen **\$240** in purse
 - Missions \$240
- Morry **\$75**
- Barb **\$0**
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Notes on Needs from last meeting

High:

- L. had baby new years eve- Has difficulties, have been discharged. Went to Mississauga. L. behind on rent - \$500
- Family needing oil – This week got a call asking for help with heating oil. \$500.
- P & R no extra assistance for two weeks, maybe we need to check in on them.

MEDIUM: "X" maybe \$694 outstanding

Possible: Man with heart condition, still cutting wood. Work party to spilt.
Person single mom needs 11 cords wood and will also need oil. (ED?)

LOW:

Planning - Dave F tiling

Spring painting of deck (for lady with the stairs that were fixed)

Spring: raking of leaves

REMINDER:

Wood for winter – stockpile = 5cords THANKS!

Bags for MCC Saturday Feb 25th at 10am at Birchdale –lunch to be brought.

Glennis will take recorder to Nepal-need bags

Food hampers for valentines' day

See website

Sort message/ discussion

Epiphany!

ACTIVITY	DURATION EXPECTED
Prayer for community and praying for needs	15 min
Short Message/ Discussion /Helpful thoughts to remember from the bible	30 min
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Epiphany!

ANY idea OF WHAT THIS WORD MEANS?

KOINE GREEK:

ἐπιφάνεια, epiphaneia,
"manifestation", "striking
appearance"

IN CLASSICAL GREEK IT WAS USED OF THE APPEARANCE OF DAWN, OF AN ENEMY IN WAR, OR OF A MANIFESTATION OF A GOD.

- A revelatory manifestation of a divine being
- A sudden manifestation of the essence or meaning of something
- A comprehension or perception of reality by means of a sudden intuitive realization

Epiphany is the name of a **Holiday** (Holy Day)
is a **Christian feast day** that
celebrates the **revelation of God the Son as a human being**
in **Jesus Christ**

Western Christians commemorate principally (but not solely) **the visitation of the Biblical Magi to the Baby Jesus**, and thus **Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles**

Western Churches celebrate it on the 6th January

Eastern Christians commemorate **the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River**, seen as **his manifestation to the world as the Son of God**.

Eastern Churches celebrate it on the 19th January

Matthew 2

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked,

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Matthew 2

chief priests and teachers of the law reply

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

*“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.*

Prophecy

Matthew 2

Sneaky Herod. . .

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

Matthew 2

Smart Magi. . .

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Question Time!

1. How many times does it refer to the Kings of the East bringing Jesus gifts? **"0" i.e Zero, NONE, NOT ONE!**
2. Who brought Jesus gifts? **"Magi"**
3. What does Magi mean?

Comes from **OLD PERSIAN** word *maguš*, **and** is a term, used since at least the 4th century BC, to denote **followers of Zoroaster** the **ability to read the stars**, and **manipulate the fate that the stars foretold**. The plural "magi" entered the English language around 1200. early church fathers, such as **St. Justin, Origen, St. Augustine and St. Jerome**, did not make an exception for the Gospel, and translated the word in its ordinary sense, i.e. as **"magician"**

4. Who *are* Magi?

"**Zoroaster**" – or rather what the Greeks supposed him to be – was for the Hellenists the figurehead of the '*magi*', and the founder of that order. They dealt with astronomical speculations and magical lore.

Within the scheme of Greek thinking (which was always on the lookout for hidden significances and "real" meanings of words) **his name was identified at first with star-worshipping** (astrothytes "star sacrificer") and, with the Zo-, **even as the living star**

Magi was a term originally reserved for a **particular tribe of Medes** that were **Priests of the Persian empire**.

They were the ancient "Consultants" asked to represent the royal families. The chief of their order was in charge of the magic of the empire.

They watched stars to determine the significance of events.

It has been proposed that Daniel was in charge of the Magi at one time.

4. Who *are* Magi?

DANIEL

- **King Nebuchadnezza** of Babylon made Daniel “The Man!”

- **Daniel 2:48**

Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him **ruler** over the entire province of Babylon and placed him **in charge of all its wise men**.

- **King Belshazzar** continued honoring Daniel

Daniel 5:29

Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

- **King Darius** and **King Cyrius** of Persia continued the same way

Daniel 6:28

So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus[b] the Persian.

It is highly likely Daniel was a member or even leader of the Magi hundreds of years before Jesus was born!

They WERE ANCIENT KING’s consultants and advisors!

Question Time!

1. How many magi brought Jesus gifts?

It doesn't say!

HOWEVER....

Those were time of thieves and robbers along the roads, so wealthy people travelled in big groups with private armed guards supporting them.

Possible for these types of gifts around 100 to 200 people would have been needed.

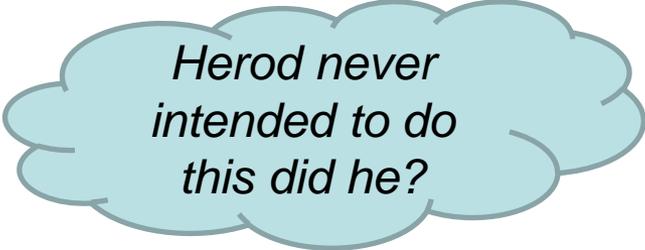
Then the bible says. . .

Why was it **secretly**... a king could demand couldn't he...was he perhaps a bit worried because of the number of armed supporters with the Magi and their political/military power?

Matthew 2

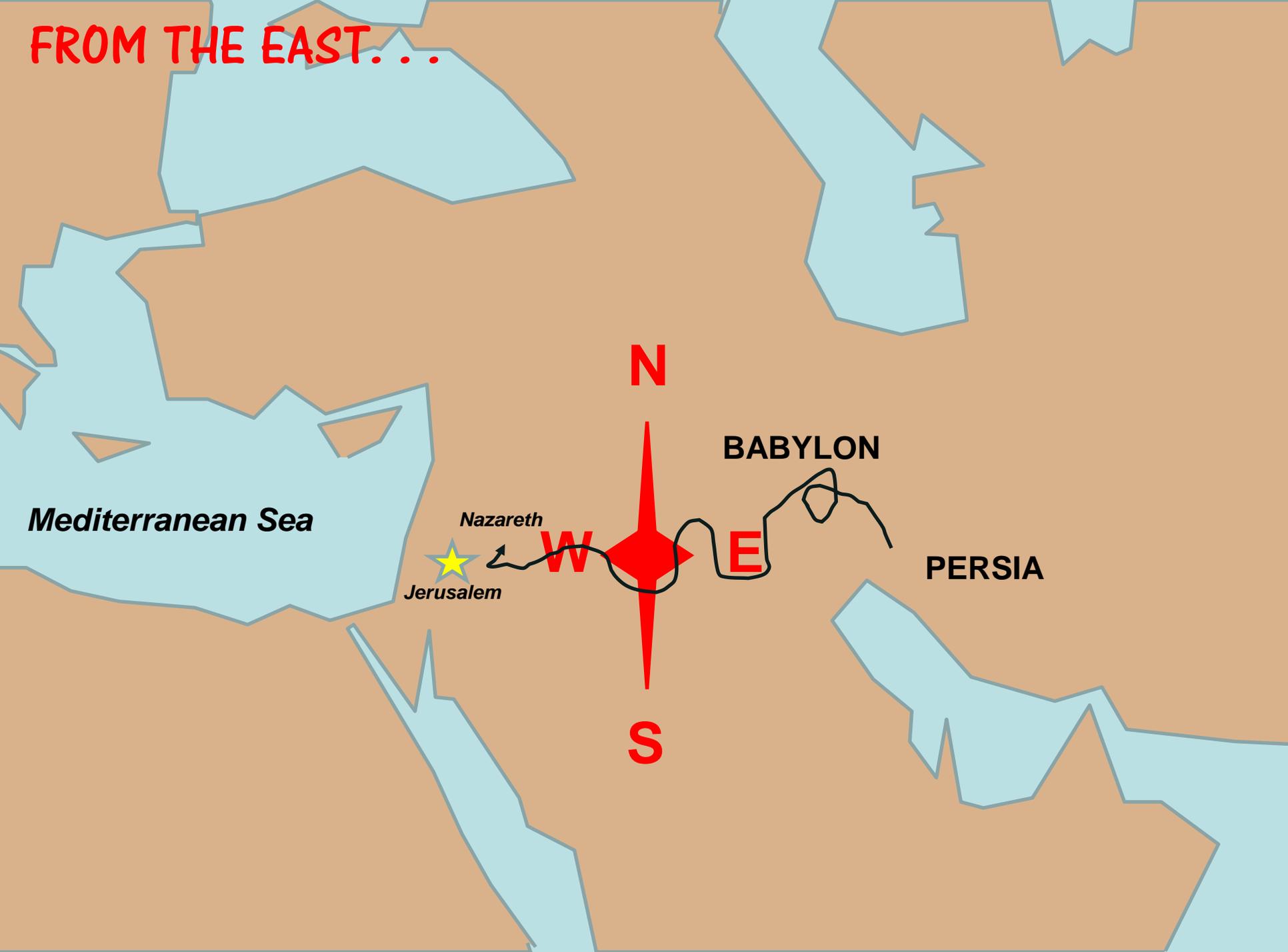
Sneaky Herod. . .

Then Herod called the Magi **secretly** and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."



*Herod never
intended to do
this did he?*

FROM THE EAST...



Mediterranean Sea

Nazareth
Jerusalem

W

N

S

BABYLON

E

PERSIA

BUT WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT AT ALL?

Epiphany of JESUS

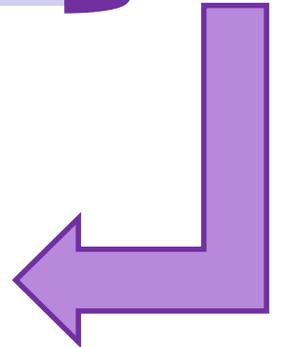
Celebrating the revelation of God the Son as a human being

*“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.*

Micah 5:2 (NIV)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose **origins are from of old,
from ancient times.**”

Prophecy



So have we the faith of the ancient wise men. . .

Do we believe the ancient writings saying that **Jesus is God**?

Are we willing to use our time and resources, minds and will to find the Son of God in our lifetime?

Will we take

our strength, ...

our money, ...

the things we love in life, ...

the things we want to distribute when we die, ...

and use it to worship and serve God and those he wants us to help?

Agenda

ACTIVITY

DURATION EXPECTED

Pass a hat! Gathering of any monetary contributions for the community work

5 min

PRAYER of thanks for Food and Drink

Praise and Worship Music (counting of monetary contributions, join in or get something to drink / eat at the same time)

15 min

Prayer for wisdom in distribution of monetary contributions

5 min

Discussion on work parties and activities planned to support the community over the next period
(specifically for the next week)

15 min

Voting on where the monetary contribution is to go for God's work in the community

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Closing prayer

5min

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Next slide. . .

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ACTIVITY

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5 min

**Discussion on work parties and activities
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next period
(specifically for the next week)

15 min

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5min

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Income \$440

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Food hampers for valentines' day

prayer

Intense cold.

Thanks for the computer- pray for getting to the right person.

Barb seminar was good and so was the trip

Thanks that Alan and family got here safely.

Family needing financial counseling assistance

Lori and Liam

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