



The Shepherd's Voice

January 2, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

'The Star in the East'

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2: 2

First let me say a happy New Year to all of you who faithfully read the Shepherd's Voice and to all our congregation to have a blessed 2013! Secondly, I want to proclaim once again that the Christmas season is still ongoing through the Twelfth Night. This Sunday is The Epiphany, the name in Biblical Greek that means, 'The Light upon us'! This is the Light of Christ who has appeared for all who believe in His Name to have His Light upon our paths in this New Year. We celebrate His Epiphany as a season of that Light sending us out in mission to the world around us...to carry the Light of Christ wherever we go.

We are again given a Gospel for this Sunday from the Matthew accounts of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. We may even sing some carols to close out Christmas. But, the emphasis is on the Magi from the east who came to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We often think they were three 'kings' from the Orient (as the song states), but we don't know actually how many magi there were, just that they brought three gifts, and likely one per king. This could have happened up to two years later in the early life of Jesus. Again, there is no proof of when they came. But, we do believe in the record that these 'wise men', magi, the kings from the east came because they followed a star and its light to guide them to the site of the Holy Family, even if they had long since moved on into a local situation or house. The timing is not really important. The faith these magi had is. They traveled hundreds, maybe over a thousand miles, on camels we assume, in search of what they had researched in the prophesy about a new king that would be born in Judea. They had to have been

wealthy. They had to have been learned. They would have known the stars. They would have been quite determined to venture in such harsh conditions of the region. They would have had to have faith that they would see the very thing predicted in the Hebrew Scriptures. Interesting that these Gentile Kings saw the Prophecy but the Jewish leaders did not act upon it. They followed the conjunction of perhaps three stars that had come together to form a more brilliant light than they had known before. Astronomers today can search back through computer models of star tracks that leads them to this phenomenon. As to all this, we have to have faith as well.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world, whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life." John 8:12. It's interesting also to me that as the world turns on its axis we are greeted by the new mornings of this new year with the sun 'rising' in the east. The Light still comes to us from the east. We often have churches that face east. People will face east when they pray if outdoors. We generally look to the east because of Jerusalem so far east of us. We know that in the New Jerusalem when the Lord Jesus comes again and rules His people will see no temple for "the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it." (Rev. 21:22-24) Indeed, the Magi saw His star and its light, but in time kings of the earth will come to worship Him, and peoples of all nations will bow down before Him. The Light of His Star still beckons us onward, to follow Him who is the Light of the world! For us who are His bond-servants, and who serve Him in bringing the Gospel into the world, we will "see His face, and His Name will be on our foreheads. And there will no longer be any night (no darkness); and we will

not have need for the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever!" (Rev. 22: 3-5). Our illumination is the Life of Jesus within us!

Now as we go into this year of foreboding forecasts of world instability, let us take hope in that Light that continues to shine from God's Star...Jesus the star of our lives. Let Him be the star of your life today.

I pray the Lord will shine brightly within you and that you become a beacon of Light to those around you. May God bless us all in this New Year.

Yours in Christ's love and shining Light,

Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

January 6, 2013	The Epiphany	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Isaiah 60:1-9	Kay Focke	Cline Handy
Psalm Reader	Psalm 72	Choir	Stephen Painter
Second Reader	Ephesians 3:1-12	Pam Theobald	Frances Slaughter
Intercessor		Acolyte	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers		Joan Jacobs, Alfred Focke	Richard Rieder, KC Winward
Acolytes		Thor Strom	Rob A (C); Damon W (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers		Joan Gast, Cheryl Martel	Cheryl Martel, Myrna Lipnicke
Ushers		Dick Sholly, Jackie Lansing	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, JR Fox, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day	Richard Rieder		
Healing Ministers		Jan Simon, Rudy Theobald	Connie Fowle, Ann Fox
Announcer		Chris Corey	Petey Seibold

Thank you for your generous donations to our holiday food drive. We were able to feed 51 families that might not have had a holiday dinner without your help.

Beginning on January 7th, our food ministry will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. to hand out food packages to those in need. If you would like to help with this please call Rob Ackerman.

Tuesdays in January and Beyond

Jan 8th-Feb 5th and Feb. 26-Mar. 19th
 Donna Brayton's life-changing course on the Sermon on the Mount will begin this Tuesday, January 8 with a potluck @ 6:30PM. This is Jesus' powerful teaching on how to live as a truly committed follower of Christ in community with others. Be sure to sign up at the book table in the Narthex. Come at 6:30 p.m. with food to share and stay for this wonderful series.

Soaking Prayer

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Bring your family, your friends,
 your neighbors.

Come "soak" in the presence of the Lord.

Sunday at Grace

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Adult Forum
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with'
Worship Team
10:15 a.m. Children's Church

Happy New Year!

Readings for Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-9

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace –Jan. 2-Jan. 9, 2013

Tues. January 1

Wed January 2

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
No Staff Meeting

Thurs. January 3

- 7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
3:30 p.m. No Alpha Club
6:15 p.m. Choir dinner & rehearsal

Fri. January 4

- 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

Sat. January 5

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Barry Montgomery Ordination in
Fallbrook

Sun. January 6

The Epiphany

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Adult Ed.
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team

Mon. January 7

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. January 8

- 11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Potluck Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's class on
The Sermon on the Mount.

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Save the date!

- Jan. 5 Barry Montgomery-Ordination
– 10:00 a.m. in Fallbrook
Jan. 6 Epiphany
Jan. 12 Frank Comstock Memorial – 2:00 p.m.
Jan. 20 Praise Service at Grace – 4:00 p.m.
Jan. 27 All Parish Annual Meeting
Feb. 2 Grand Ultreya at Grace
Feb. 16&17 Bishop Bill at Grace
Feb. 23 Yuma Cursillo Team Meeting at Grace
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home