



# Vergas United Methodist Church December 19, 2021

## Welcome

**Announcements**  
*(see back of bulletin)*

**Opening Prayer**

**Silence / Candle Lighting**

**Call to Worship ~ Carmen M.**

Leader: They saw the star rise in the East and wondered.

**People of God: As they offered true worship.**

Leader: They read the ancient prophecies and questioned.

**People of God: And they offered true worship.**

Leader: They traveled from afar over fields and hills.

**People of God: All to offer their reverent and real worship.**

Leader: The met Herod, traversed Jerusalem, finally finding Bethlehem. They followed the star and found the family, the baby Jesus.

**People of God: And they knelt at the feet of a baby, a toddler, the true King.**

Leader: They brought gifts of adoration and praise.

**People of God: As so we too bring our gifts of adoration and praise.**

**ALL: Amen!**

**Hymn #657 Sing twice**  
**“This is the Day”**  
*(organist Jane W.)*

**Joys & Concerns**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn #618 vs. 1, 2 & 3**  
**“Let us Break Bread Together”**  
*(organist Jane W.)*

**Offering / Doxology**

**Prayer of Illumination ~ Carmen M.**

**Scripture ~ Carmen M.**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**  
*(see back of bulletin)*

**Sermon ~ Pastor Amy Strom**  
**“Qualities of True Worship”**

**Communion**  
*(see back of bulletin)*

**Hymn #254 vs. 1, 2 & 5**  
**“We Three Kings”**  
*(organist Jane W.)*

**Hymn #672 vs. 1**  
**“God Be With You”**

**Benediction**

*Have a Blessed week and a*

*Happy New Year!*

## Scripture Reading

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> “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.” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the word of God, for the people of God,

**Thanks be to God.**

### Communion Liturgy

As God guided the wise men to the feet of Jesus,  
**may God guide us in wisdom, to kneel before Jesus, in true worship.**

Let us prepare ourselves to praise God and receive grace!

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you  
**Do this in remembrance of me”**

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup also

gave thanks to You gave it to his disciples and said: Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

**Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

All has been prepared and all are welcome to receive grace!

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ  
**we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice. Amen!**

*I would like to thank you for the gifts and cards on Christmas. I am so grateful for your generosity and kindness. Your gifts boosted my spirits, thank you so much!*  
*Pastor Amy*

Next Sunday, **Jan 9th** Servers:

**Ushers:** Bryan & Eileen G.

**Liturgist: NEEDED Organist: Jane W.**

**Offering: Budget \$7,500 per month to meet our obligations**

Vergas	Offering	Still Needed	In - Pers Attend	On Line Attend
12/05	\$ 24	\$ <span style="color: red;">-7,476</span>	No	Service
12/12	\$2,203	\$ <span style="color: red;">-5,273</span>	34	38
12/19	\$5,094	\$ <span style="color: red;">- 179</span>	25	33
12/26	\$1,274	\$ 1,095	No	Service
<span style="color: red;">12/24</span>	<b>\$738.50</b>	<b>Food Shelf</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>



*Pastor Amy Strom*

*Cell #612-226-8905 Parsonage #218-334-6901*

*amyjstrom@gmail.com*

*Announcements / Newsletter  
send to Sheri Schoenberger  
sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com  
Call or text 218-329-7465*

## Announcements

**Ugly / Festive Sweaters** If you happened to take a few pictures of the festive holiday (ummmm... ugly) sweaters, please send a copy on to Sheri at one of the following - text to 218-329-7465 or email to [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Book Club meeting** 12:30 on Tues, Jan 4th at Mysteries Café in Dent.

**S/PPRC Meeting** in Vergas at 11:30am on Sunday, January 9th. Pizza and pop will be provided.

**Pay it Forward** - We would like to take a little time on Sunday, Jan 9th & the 16th to hear people's Pay It Forward stories. You still have some time to pay it forward. We'd love to have you in church to share your story.

### **Vacations:**

Jody & Sheri will be taking vacation on Sun, Jan 9th and Sun, Jan 16th. Our worship services will be a bit more simple, and will not be Livestreamed.

Pastor Amy will be taking some Vacation on the last 2 Sundays. January 23rd will be lead by Darlene Holtz and January 30th will be lead by Lyndon Maasjo.

**Free Resource** to check out - if you are looking for a FREE quality resource to help you reflect on 2021 and make the most out of 2022, check out [yearcompass.com](http://yearcompass.com)



## **Sermon Notes: Wise Men... Qualities of True Worship**

What is the burning question that drove the wise men on? **“Where is the one who has been born king of the \_\_\_\_\_? We saw his star when it rose and have come to \_\_\_\_\_ him.”**

What is one characteristic of a relationship with God? The Lord invites us into an ever-deepening relationship where one characteristic of that relationship is \_\_\_\_\_.

What was the goal of the wise men?

- Find new camels
- Seek shelter and rest
- Worship Jesus
- Find good take out

How many wise men were there?

They wanted to worship the \_\_\_\_\_ king; showing us the first quality of worship, that their worship was \_\_\_\_\_.

List three emotions that describe your Advent season.

How has God communicated his great love for you? What things, events, or people did God used to express his love?

Which two kings did Matthew compare and contrast in his gospel?

## Sermon Notes continued...

Which other qualities of worship did the wise men exhibit in their pursuit of Jesus?

- Willing to leave their comfort zones
- Expending time and energy in seeking Jesus
- Sometimes they entered into dangerous settings
- Giving costly gifts and the costs of travel
- All of the above

Their worship was marked by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, preparing and traveling for months even up to a year. Their worship was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ because all of Jerusalem was stirred and jostled. Their worship was discerning and \_\_\_\_\_, they sought the true king.

Their worship might have cost them their \_\_\_\_\_ and some \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

What empowered these wise men on their journey?

- Red bull
- Plenty of rest and staying hydrated
- The Spirit of God
- Camel power!



### For study and reflection on The Wise Men - Making Room for Jesus:

\*These following questions are taken from "The Characters of Christmas" by Daniel Darling.

**1. When you are confronted by Jesus this Christmas, which of these three responses best describes you:**

- Adoration - The wise men, who sought Jesus at great personal sacrifice and would not give up until they could bow before Him in costly worship?
- Anger - Herod, who was threatened by the presence of Jesus, who disrupted Herod's quest for personal power and selfish ambition?
- Apathy - The scribes and priest, who knew the Scriptures and were in a place of worship (the temple) but who missed Jesus due to their fear of man and their self-righteousness and spiritual apathy?

**2. Can you trace your own journey to Jesus?** How did God work in the twists and turns of your life to bring you to His Son? Parents, this may be a wonderful opportunity to share with your children your own spiritual testimony.

**3. How is worship of the Christ child this Christmas releasing generosity in your heart this year?** As you make your shopping lists, are you giving out of duty or delight that your King has come?

