

SCRIPTURE & SERMON NOTES

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "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 be the shepherd of my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ 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 and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

TITLE: "The Perfect Christmas"

TEXT: Matthew 2:1-12

THEME: The Gifts of God Are Perfect

I. THE STORY

A. The Wise Men

B. The Star

C. The Gifts

II. THE PURPOSE

III. THE VISION FOR US

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Jesus make every Christmas perfect?
2. What are the most perfect yet unexpected gifts God has given you recently?

Next Week:

Title: "The God Who Guides"

Preacher: Pastor John Rantal

Text: Matthew 2:13-23

ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY	Missions Committee Meeting	12:15 p.m.
	Elders & Deacons Prayer — in library	12:45 p.m.
THURSDAY	Christmas Eve — Church Office Closed	
	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	Christmas Day — Church Office Closed	

The church activity calendar is available on-line at www.tnpc.org/calendar.

WORSHIP SERVICE

NURSERY IS PROVIDED DURING Sunday School and the Worship service for all children age three and under. Classrooms are located on the first floor of the Education Building.

TNPC-FM-88.1 FM — A limited number of receivers are available at the sound booth.

LIFEChange OFFERING — Last week's total LIFEChange was \$389.93. Thanks be to God!

If you did not bring your LIFEChange last Sunday, you may put your check in this morning's offering marked "LIFEChange".

THIS WEEK

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY - COMMUNION PREPARATION TEAM: TNPC is in need of a person or couple who would be willing to help prepare for Communion once per month. This involves purchasing the elements, preparing the elements for serving, setting the table prior to Communion and taking it down after the service, cleaning the serving pieces, etc. Please prayerfully consider this and, if you would like to participate in this vital ministry to the Body of Christ, please contact Tony Anthony or Cullen and Barbara Tubb. Thank you.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

— Please consider volunteering to clean up the morning coffee in Fellowship Hall in the coming year. We ask that the volunteers serve for a month at a time and it only takes about 15 minutes after worship to complete the task. Sign-up is in the narthex. See Judy Dawson if you have questions.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE — Bring family, friends, and neighbors to a beautiful evening service celebrating the birth of our Savior at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 24th. Nursery will be provided. After the service please remember to take home your poinsettias!

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTER! — Pastor Rantal is teaching "Show & Tell: The Principles of Witness Through Friendship." This is the only adult Sunday School class offered for the Winter Quarter (through February 28). The class meets Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 in CE Room 205-206.

THE NEW FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2010

— Is in the narthex. Please sign up to provide flowers for Sunday worship in the coming year. Thank you so much to all those who provided flowers in 2009. See Judy Dawson if you have any questions.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED — December 24 & 25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE — Please submit all announcements for next week's worship guide to the Church Office by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday.

TAPES OR CDS of each Sunday's sermon are available for a fee. Pick them up in the narthex. Please pay for your tapes or CDs in the box provided near the sign-up sheet. Tapes and CDs for visitors may be picked up by the sign-up sheet.



YEAR-END DONATIONS

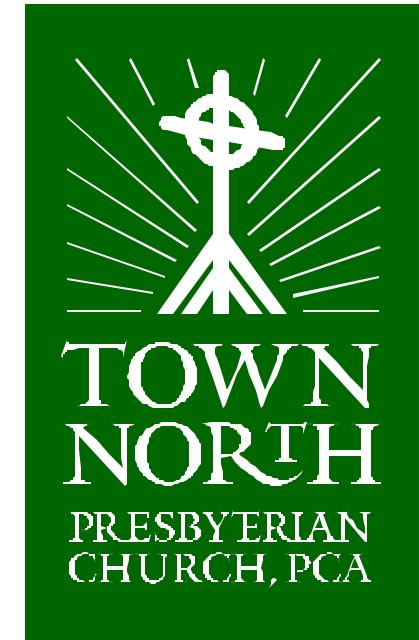
JUST A REMINDER THAT ALL GIFTS AND OFFERINGS NEED TO BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY END OF THE DAY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH OR POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31ST IN ORDER TO BE DEDUCTIBLE ON YOUR 2009 TAX RETURN. THESE DONATIONS WILL BE INCLUDED ON YOUR 2009 GIVING STATEMENT. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, ALL GIFTS WILL BE CREDITED TO THE GENERAL FUND.

December 2009

Net General Fund Starting Balance (at November 2009 close):	\$21,550
Actual Revenue (2 Sundays):	\$25,115
Actual Expenses (2 Sundays):	\$11,252
Net General Fund Ending Balance (2 Sundays):	\$35,413
Estimated General Fund Needed Revenue for Dec (4 Sundays):	\$51,558

Town North Presbyterian Church
1776 N. Plano Road Richardson, Texas 75081
(972) 235-1886 www.tnpc.org

As we confront the challenges and opportunities of the third millennium, our vision is to be a worshipping community of disciples who are bringing God's Kingdom to bear upon the world and building His Church among all peoples.



The Week's Order of WORSHIP for THE LORD'S DAY

The Christian Year: Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2009 10:30 A.M.
Advent Worship Theme: The Maji

PRELUDE

Jody Lubbers & Fiona Garwood
(Church elders are available at the front to pray personally with anyone during the prelude.)

ACTIVITIES & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor John Rantal

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

"Thank You" to Pastor Pete

The Session

PREPARING IN STILLNESS

INTROIT

And the Glory of the Lord

Town North Brass

* CALL TO WORSHIP *Isaiah 9:2, 6*

PASTOR: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

PEOPLE: **on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

PASTOR: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

PEOPLE: **And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymn 208 (vv. 1-4)*
O Come, All Ye Faithful

* INVOCATION *Pastor Pete Deison*

PASTOR: O Lord, open my lips,

PEOPLE: **And my mouth will declare your praise.**

* CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism – Questions 29, 31, 32*

PASTOR: Why is the Son of God called “Jesus,” that is, Savior?

PEOPLE: **Because He saves us from our sins, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in any other.**

PASTOR: Why is He called “Christ,” that is, Anointed?

PEOPLE: **Because He is ordained of God the Father and anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of His body has redeemed us, and ever lives to make intercession for us with the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.**

PASTOR: But why are you called a Christian?

PEOPLE: **Because by faith I am a member of Christ and thus a partaker of His anointing, in order that I also may confess His Name, may present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him, and with a free conscience may fight against sin and the devil in this life, and hereafter in eternity reign with Him over all creatures.**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ALL: **Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi that they would find the Christ child. We confess that we have not been diligent to follow the light of your Word. The Magi knew so little, yet made diligent search to know more of you. We confess that we are blessed with the knowledge of redemption, yet we have been self-satisfied to presume that we know enough. The Magi brought costly gifts to worship Christ Jesus as king. We confess that we have been given great bounty from heaven, yet we hoard your gifts and do not trust you to provide our needs. We have ignored your call to be messengers of mercy, nor do we trust you with our daily lives. Forgive our self-centeredness and doubt. Renew in us that desire to believe in your power, to trust in your wisdom, and to be satisfied with your love. Once again let us find our Christmas joy in Jesus himself. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PEACE OF GOD *Psalm 145:8-9*

PASTOR: Hear the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ: *The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

PEOPLE: **And also with you!**

* HYMN OF ADVENT *Hymn 226 (vv. 1-5)*
As With Gladness Men of Old

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Dr. Bob Longacre with Doug & Karla Pollock*

Reading for Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tony Anthony & Heather Zeiger

PRAYING TOGETHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE *Pastor John Rantal*

WORSHIPPING BY GIVING *(Sign, pass & return Friendship Pad)*

◆ Offertory *Town North Choir*

“Sing and Rejoice” by Robert Thygerson

* PRAISING OUR GOD *Doxology Hymn 733*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heav’nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* DEDICATING OUR LIVES & GIFTS

ALL: **Lord God, giver of all good gifts: We are the objects of your redeeming love and your richest blessings. You do not need our possessions, but you choose to work through them. You make use of them to bring us into true submission of worshipping you as King over our lives. You employ our offerings to enable the ministry of this church. And you use them to teach us to trust you with our needs. Give us grateful hearts, and receive these tithes and offerings for your glory alone. Amen.**

* HEARING SCRIPTURE **Micah 5:2-5a** *Deacon Kojo Kyei-Marfo*

² “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.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness

will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be their peace.

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God!**

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

* PREPARING TO HEAR GOD’S WORD *Ensemble & Congregation*
What Child Is This? *Hymn 213 (vv. 1-3)*

(Children ages 4-6 may dismiss to Children’s Church.)

APPLYING GOD’S WORD *Pastor Pete Deison*

“The Perfect Christmas” — *Matthew 2:1-12*

(Scripture text and sermon outline on the back of the worship guide)

* PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR COMMUNION *Hymn 241 (vv. 1, 4-5)*
Thou Dost Reign on High

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

AFFIRMING THE MYSTERY

PASTOR: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

PEOPLE: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

PASTOR: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the people of God.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to the Lord.**

THE LORD’S SUPPER *(Please hold the elements until everyone is served. Please place used cups in baskets in the narthex after the service.)*

* RESPONDING IN SONG *Hymn 195 (vv. 1-4)*
Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

* BENEDICTION *Philippians 4:7, 23*

PASTOR: May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

ALL: **Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Jami Calatozzo*

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible.

** Congregation Please Stand*

If you would like to know more about becoming a Christian, the pastor is available in the narthex after the service. Copies of the brochure “How Do I Become a Christian” are also available in the narthex.