

## SCRIPTURE & SERMON NOTES

### Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

<sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup> and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

**TITLE:** "The God Who Guides"

**TEXT:** Matthew 2:13-23

#### I. OFF-TARGET QUESTIONS

#### II. UNEXPECTED ANSWERS

#### III. GUIDANCE OF GRACE

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Since we are not steeped in the stories and worldview and values of first-century Jewish Christians, what do we miss while reading this passage?
2. What is Matthew trying to prove by connecting events in the life of Jesus with prophecies of the Old Testament?
3. Sometimes when the Bible says a prophecy is "fulfilled", it means that it is "filled up" or brought to its full meaning. How does this apply to the three prophecies of this passage?
4. No Old Testament prophets ever said the words, "He shall be called a Nazarene." Why did Matthew say they did (verse 23)?

### Next Week:

Title: "The Focus of Excellence"

Preacher: Pastor John Rantal

Series: *Philippians*

Text: *Philippians 4:8-9*

## ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Growth &amp; Discipleship Small Group — Conf Rm</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
	<b>Small Group — in homes</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>Small Group — in homes</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
	<b>An Adventure in Caring Small Group</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
	<b>Faith Builders Small Group</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Ladies' Evening Bible Study — WIC Rm</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>New Year's Eve — Church Office Closed</b>	
	<b>Youth Lock-In!</b>	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>New Year's Day — Church Office Closed</b>	

The church activity calendar is available on-line at [www.tnpc.org/calendar](http://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.

**THE FLOWERS** — This morning are given by the Aguilar family to the glory of God and in gratitude for Maru Aguilar's (Joel's mother) 70th birthday.

**COMMUNION** — Will be celebrated next Sunday morning. Please prepare your hearts and minds and relationships to approach the Lord's table.

### 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. Sign-up is in the narthex. See Judy Dawson for questions.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS 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.

**THURSDAY — DECEMBER 31**

**New Year's Eve Youth Lock-In!**

**9:00 PM – 9:00 AM (JAN 1)**

**AT THE CHURCH!!! • \$5.00 PER PERSON**

### 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** — Thursday, December 31 & Friday, January 1.

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

**JOIN US FOR THE JANUARY WIC GATHERING** for *Sharing and Praise Night* on January 5, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the WIC room. We serve a sovereign, almighty God and we want to tell others how we know that! Encourage other sisters in Christ by being prepared to tell what God has been doing in your life. Or come to be encouraged about the hand of God moving in our everyday lives. It should be a time of sweet fellowship.

### YEAR-END DONATIONS

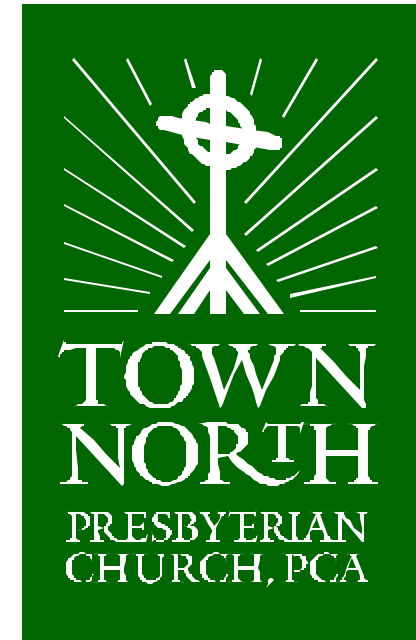
**JUST A REMINDER THAT ALL GIFTS AND OFFERINGS NEED TO BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY END OF THE DAY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH OR POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31ST IN ORDER TO BE DEDUCTIBLE ON YOUR 2009 TAX RETURN. THESE DONATIONS WILL BE INCLUDED ON YOUR 2009 GIVING STATEMENT. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED,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

### December 2009

<b>Net General Fund Starting Balance (at November 2009 close):</b>	<b>\$21,550</b>
<b>Actual Revenue (3 Sundays):</b>	<b>\$34,290</b>
<b>Actual Expenses (3 Sundays):</b>	<b>\$11,204</b>
<b>Net General Fund Ending Balance (3 Sundays):</b>	<b>\$44,636</b>
<b>Estimated General Fund Needed Revenue for Dec (4 Sundays):</b>	<b>\$51,558</b>

Town North Presbyterian Church  
1776 N. Plano Road Richardson, Texas 75081  
(972) 235-1886 [www.tnpc.org](http://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: First Sunday of Christmas*  
December 27, 2009 10:30 A.M.  
**Advent Worship Theme: God Guides His People**

PRELUDE

Brian Peacock

(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

Officer Candidates

The Session

PREPARING IN STILLNESS

Assisting in leading worship today is Elder Carl Ede

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 105:1-3*  
LEADER: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name.  
**PEOPLE: Make known among the nations what he has done.**  
LEADER: Sing to him, sing praise to him.  
**PEOPLE: Tell of all his wonderful acts.**  
LEADER: Glory in his holy name.  
**ALL: Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymn 310 (vv. 1-5)*  
***Rejoice, the Lord Is King***

\* INVOCATION *Pastor John Rantal*  
PASTOR: O Lord, open my lips,  
**PEOPLE: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

\* CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism – Questions 60 & 61*  
LEADER: How are you righteous before God?  
**PEOPLE: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. That is, although my conscience accuses me (that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have never kept any of them, and am still prone always to all evil) yet God, without any merit of mine, of mere grace, grants and imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ, as if I had never committed nor had any sins, and had myself accomplished all the obedience which Christ has fulfilled for me; if only I accept such benefit with a believing heart.**  
LEADER: Why do you say that you are righteous by faith only?  
**PEOPLE: Not that I am acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of my faith, but because only the satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God. I can receive this righteousness and make it my own in no other way than by faith only.**

#### CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**ALL: Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

*In these moments,  
we individually come to God in prayer,  
silently confessing personal sins that we may take hold of  
the forgiveness won for us by Christ, our Redeemer.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PEACE OF GOD *Psalm 32:1-2*  
PASTOR: Hear the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ: *Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you!  
**PEOPLE: And also with you!**

\* HYMN OF THANKFULNESS *Hymn 642 (vv. 1-5)*  
***Be Thou My Vision***

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

WORSHIPPING BY GIVING *(Sign, pass & return Friendship Pad)*  
♦ Offertory ***“Andante”*** from *Violin Sonata No. 2* *Drew Williams, violin*  
*by Johann Sebastian Bach*

\* 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: O God, Fountain of all good: We bring to your tithes and our offerings, in obedience to your command and according to how you have prospered us. Enable us, with our earthly things, to demonstrate both our gratitude and our trust in your promise to provide for all our needs. Your favor is life, and your lovingkindness is better than life. Let them be upon us now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* HEARING SCRIPTURE ***Exodus 13:17-22*** *Elder Dick Dawson*

<sup>17</sup>When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” <sup>18</sup>So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle.

<sup>19</sup>Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.”

<sup>20</sup>After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert.

<sup>21</sup>By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. <sup>22</sup>Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!**

\* GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

\* PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD *Hymn 689 (vv. 1-2)*  
***Be Still, My Soul***

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

APPLYING GOD'S WORD *Pastor John Rantal*  
***“The God Who Guides”*** — *Matthew 2:13-23*  
*(Scripture text and sermon outline on the back of the worship guide)*

\* RESPONDING IN SONG *Hymn 598 (vv. 1-3)*  
***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah***

\* BENEDICTION *1 Kings 8:57-58, 60*  
PASTOR: May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God and that there is no other.  
**ALL: The Lord is King forever! Hallelujah!**

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.***