

Look Book Took
Epiphany, January 6, 2019

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Look:

Think of a time in your life when you would say you had an Epiphany. This may be a positive or a negative event.

Book:

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with

Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The word for wise men may be translated as astrologers, magi, wise men, and we often call them kings. They may have come from Persia or other areas. In Boslaugh office building, the wise men are on Segways carrying Amazon packages. How do you envision and/or grow up thinking about these characters in the Bible?

Where did the wise men go first? How did they know to go to Bethlehem?

Why do you think the wise men were overwhelmed with joy when they found the place where Jesus was born?

Who are the kings referenced in this reading? (Hint: do not include the wise men and there are 2)

What have you heard about why they offered the gifts they gave?

How did they know not to go back the same way?

How may Mary have felt when these visitors showed up bringing gifts?

Why did Herod want to know the location of Jesus? Do you recall what Herod orders after this passage?

Epiphany means to reveal, make manifest, or make known. How would you tell someone who had not heard of this celebration in the Church what Epiphany is using this passage?

Took:

Dreams have been taken seriously throughout Scripture and are used by modern Psychologists. They may reveal. Have you ever had a dream you would call prophetic? Do you think God speaks to you through dreams?

Epiphany celebrates Christ being made known to all of creation. If you were asked, how would you describe Christ being born for everyone?

Describe your first time coming to St. David's. Would you consider this an epiphany or related to an epiphany in your life?

In your experience of your own epiphanies, do you consider them "messy," anxiety-producing, straight-forward...?

In your above-mentioned Epiphany, did your life change forever? How did you go home in a different way?

Do you think an epiphany requires you to act?

Have you acted to the Epiphany we celebrate with Christ being revealed to the wisemen and for everyone?