

Trinity Devotion 20

Week of January 3, 2021

Fred Young

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2:9-12

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When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a star appeared in the sky. But this star didn't just shine in that Region. People in faraway lands observed its brilliant light. Some wise magi, who studied the stars, wondered what the presence of this new star could mean. Convinced this new entity in the sky was a sign of a new earthly ruler, they decided to search for this new sovereign.

They packed for a trip not knowing where they would end up or how long it would take to get there. It took time and resources to prepare for this mysterious adventure. With only the moonlight and the light of this new star, they moved slowly across the landscape into the unknown.

When I was in Youth Ministry, one of my favorite events to plan was what I called, "**It's a Mystery!**" For several years, such an event appeared on our year-long schedule. All anyone else knew was the date and time, I held the where and

how close to my heart until we arrived at our destination. A favorite trip was to the *Philadelphia Museum of Art*. When we arrived another youth leader met us at the door, with pre-purchased tickets and a map of the museum complete with clues to our group's very own scavenger hunt. It was a day, filled with fun, art, lunch and great intrigue. Teens looked forward to these events every year.

I think about these trips when I consider the great unknown the Magi faced as they set off to find their Messiah. Amid new and exciting astrology discoveries they eventually located Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Probably exhausted from their long journey, they knelt and celebrated the hope and light Jesus brings into the world. These wise Magi listened to the Lord and went back to their homelands by a different route, leaving King Herod clueless.



Things to Consider:

1. What is your hope for peace and justice today?
2. What gifts might we bring to honor and celebrate Jesus' birth in these days?

Prayer: We praise you, Holy One, for visions of your loving ways. Stir our hope and fill us with the courage to imagine how we might journey in the paths you illuminate with the brilliance of the Christ child. Amen.