

Sermon Outline - Sun, December 6th, 2020 – Stay on the Light – Overview
(Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12)

Overview – The advent season has officially begun and while retailers are trying to figure out how to get us to buy as much as possible to make up for a tough sales year, we are challenged to figure out how to place Jesus at the center of the season. This year we will lean into the story of the Magi – the “Three Wise Guys” to understand how we can focus our spirits in this season

Story Exegesis

- The Christmas story unfolds mostly in Matthew and Luke with different emphasis
- The Shepherds are present in Luke whereas the Magi are in Matthew
- The Magi were probably Zoroastrians (one of the oldest recorded religions) and the stars were an important part of their tradition
- When Jesus is born the star appears and they see it and recognize it as a powerful sign
- They are so impressed they decide to travel there and most likely arrive to the Holy Family when Jesus is around 1 year old.
- They go to Jerusalem to Herod/City Hall to get help with finding him

Monthly Summary –

1. They were looking for a change (Today)
2. They didn't put their faith in the political structure (2nd Sun)
3. They saw the power in small things. (3rd Sun)
4. They brought their gifts to contribute to the project. (4th Sun)
5. They followed their dreams. (1st Sun in Jan)

Key Points – They were looking for change

1. They looked beyond the reality of their current reality towards the future - From their tradition they would have been charged to pay attention to the stars potentially on a nightly basis. They believed that the stars foretold events on Earth.
2. They developed their night vision to find light in the darkness – This was not the best time for humanity. They were looking for the bright light even if it was far away.
3. When the signs came they picked up to follow (even though they didn't know exactly where they were going) – When it was clear that change was on the way they were not afraid to let go of what they had to walk towards the light. They knew the journey would be long but they went anyway.

Core Questions –

1. Are you looking for the signs of change? If so, where are you looking? What things get your attention?
2. We too are in a time of darkness. How is your night vision? Are you trained to look for the light even if it is far out.? What can you do to increase you night vision?
3. Are you willing to walk towards the change? What prevents you from following the light?