

Advent Week 3— The Star on Top of It All | December 21, 2025
Matthew 2:1–12

READ

Read the Scripture for the week:

- Matthew 2:1–12
- Cross-references: Psalm 19:1–4; Numbers 24:17; Romans 1:20; Isaiah 60:1–3

DISCUSS

As you begin, share one personal memory of a moment in creation that stirred awe—a sunrise, mountain view, ocean night sky, etc.

Then share one or two “nuggets” from the sermon that helped you see the Star of Bethlehem in a new way.

COME AND SEE

This section helps us look deeper—biblically, historically, and theologically—at what the star reveals about God, the nations, our hearts, and Jesus.

1. The Star Reveals a God Who Speaks in the Language of the Nations

Read Matthew 2:1–2 and Psalm 19:1–4.

- The sermon described the heavens as a “divine bulletin board.”

How does Psalm 19 help explain why God may have chosen a star to announce Jesus’ birth to Gentile scholars?

- The Magi interpreted the sky through their culture’s worldview.

What does their story teach us about how God adapts His communication to different cultures?

- Consider Romans 1:20.

How have you personally experienced God “speaking” through creation?

- For those who feel far from God—skeptics, dechurched, wounded—why is creation often the first place God whispers again?

2. The Star Confronts the False Kings We Trust

Read Matthew 2:3–8.

- Why was Herod “troubled,” while the Magi were joyful?

What does this reveal about the difference between insecurity and adoration?

- The sermon listed several “false kings”:

Approval, Success, Security, Control, Religious Performance, Self-Sufficiency.

Which one tends to “tremble” most when Jesus draws near in your life?

- Herod responded by resisting the true King instead of receiving Him.

Where do you see that same pattern in your own heart or in our culture?

3. The Star Leads Us to a Humble King and a Greater Joy

Read Matthew 2:9–11.

- Matthew describes the Magi experiencing “exceedingly great joy.”

Why does their joy intensify before they even meet Jesus?

- Discuss the sermon’s contrast:

“The world expects a comet to announce a conqueror; God uses it to invite worshipers to a Child.”

What does this tell us about the nature of Christ’s kingdom?

- How does the humility of Jesus—His smallness, poverty, ordinariness—change the way we understand God’s glory?

- The Magi bowed down—something they would never do for Herod or Caesar.

What does this teach us about what true worship looks like today?

FOLLOW ME

This section helps us move from insight to personal transformation.

1. Where is God speaking to you right now?

Through Scripture? Through creation? Through circumstances? Through silence?
What might He be saying?

2. Which “false king” does Jesus gently confront in you today?

What would surrender look like?

3. How can you recover the wonder of worship?

What spiritual practices, environments, or rhythms help you “rejoice exceedingly with great joy”?

GO AND BE

Put the message into practice this week in simple, concrete ways.

1. Spend five minutes under the night sky this week.

Look up without distraction. Pray Psalm 19 aloud.

Ask: “Lord, what are You declaring to me through Your creation?”

2. Name one false king to dethrone.

Write it down. Offer it to Jesus.

Pray: “Only You are my King.”

3. Practice humble adoration.

Like the Magi, kneel—physically, if possible—once this week in prayer.

Let your body teach your heart the posture of worship.

4. Invite someone “far off” to seek with you.

Is there a skeptic, a struggler, a friend who feels distant from faith?

Invite them to Christmas Eve or to coffee.

Sometimes God uses you as the guiding star.

The star still shines for all who are willing to follow.

It exposes our false kings.

It leads us to the true King.

And it invites us into exceedingly great joy.



ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH