Sundday, January 4, 2026

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

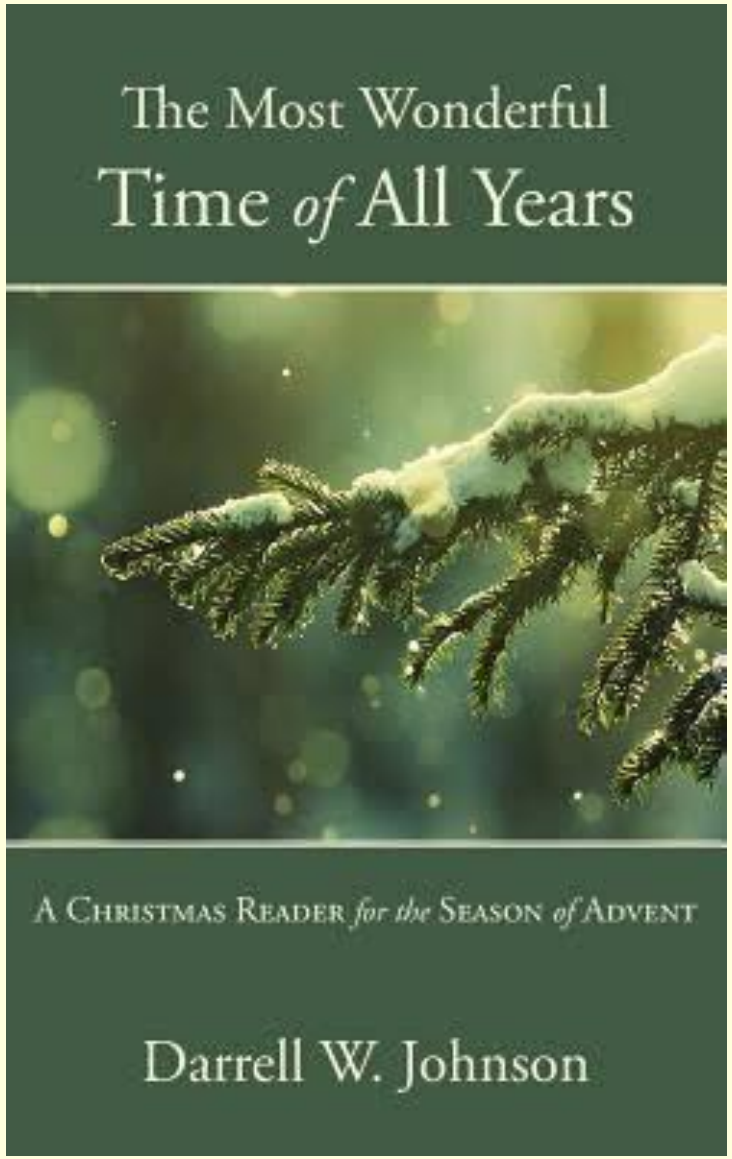
Welcome and Announcements

Photo by James Gardner

Communion Sunday

Happy Birthday!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.



Dr. Darrell Johnson

Message in a nutshell

Responsive Reading – Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

when the shepherds are back with their flocks,

Then the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,

to heal the broken,

to feed the hungry,

to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations,

to bring peace among the people,

to make music in the heart.

I Am the Light of the World

When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun.

To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above.

To free the prisoner from his chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations
with strength and goodwill,
To call a man your brother everywhere.

To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old man's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!

I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

20
130
40
150
2
1
Your Mechanic

I'm so happy!

I had no idea how to do that!

I'm perplexed…

You can't be serious?

Now I get it!

Elizabeth has zero aptitude when it comes to anything mechanical.

Epiphany (epiph·a·ny i-ˈpi-fə-nē)

- A usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.

- An intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking.

- An illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure

Opening Prayer

Loving Father,

As we begin this new year, help us be like those wise men who, when they saw that star, decided to act. They didn't ignore it, they didn't try to explain it away. They embraced this moment of epiphany, and it changed their lives.

May we react the same when an epiphany comes our way. May we be filled with the gladness of the shepherds and the joy of the wise men. Let our lives be changed as rise up and follow you.

Matthew 2: 1-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I, too. may go and worship him."

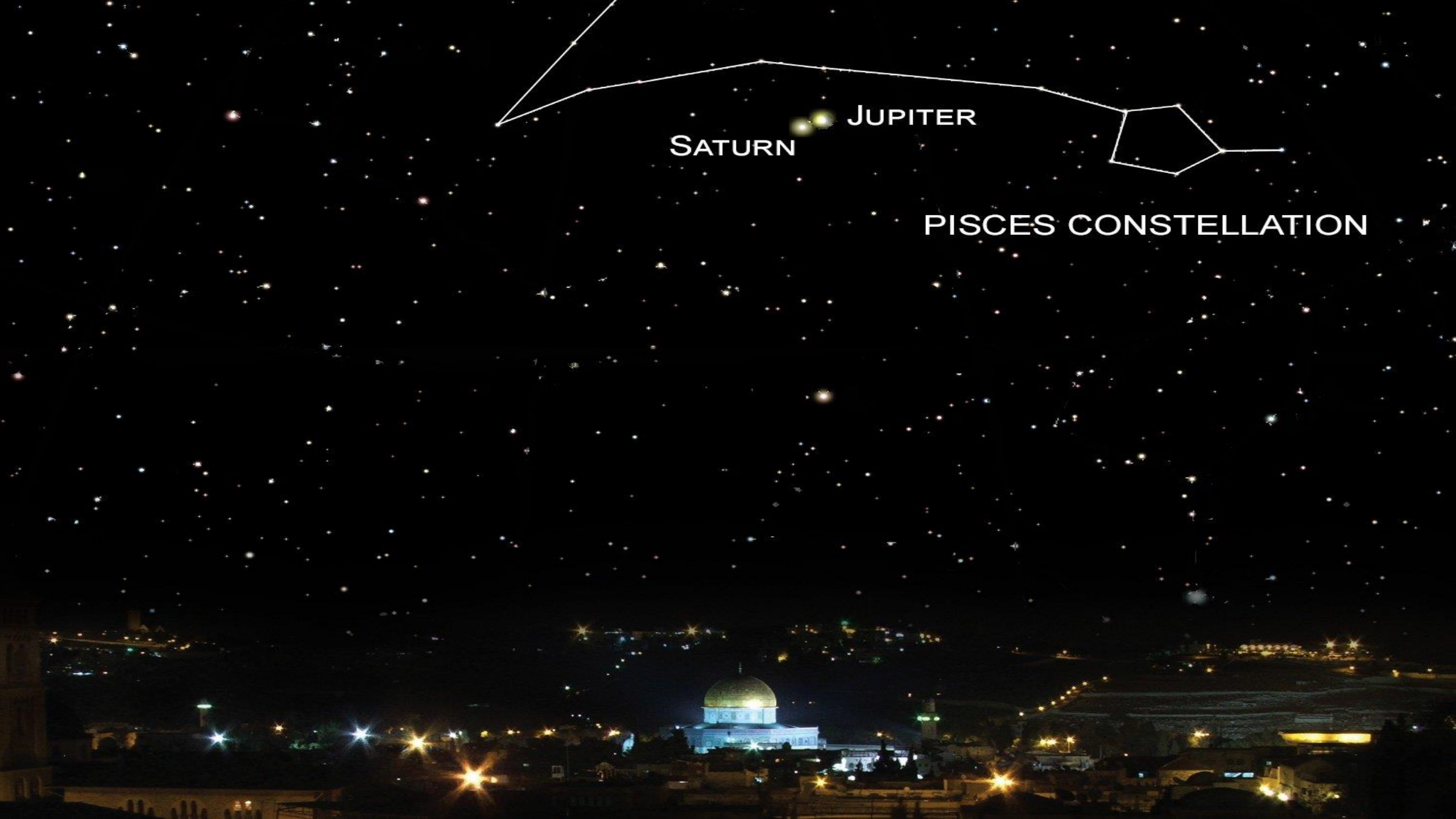
After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they REJOICED
with EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

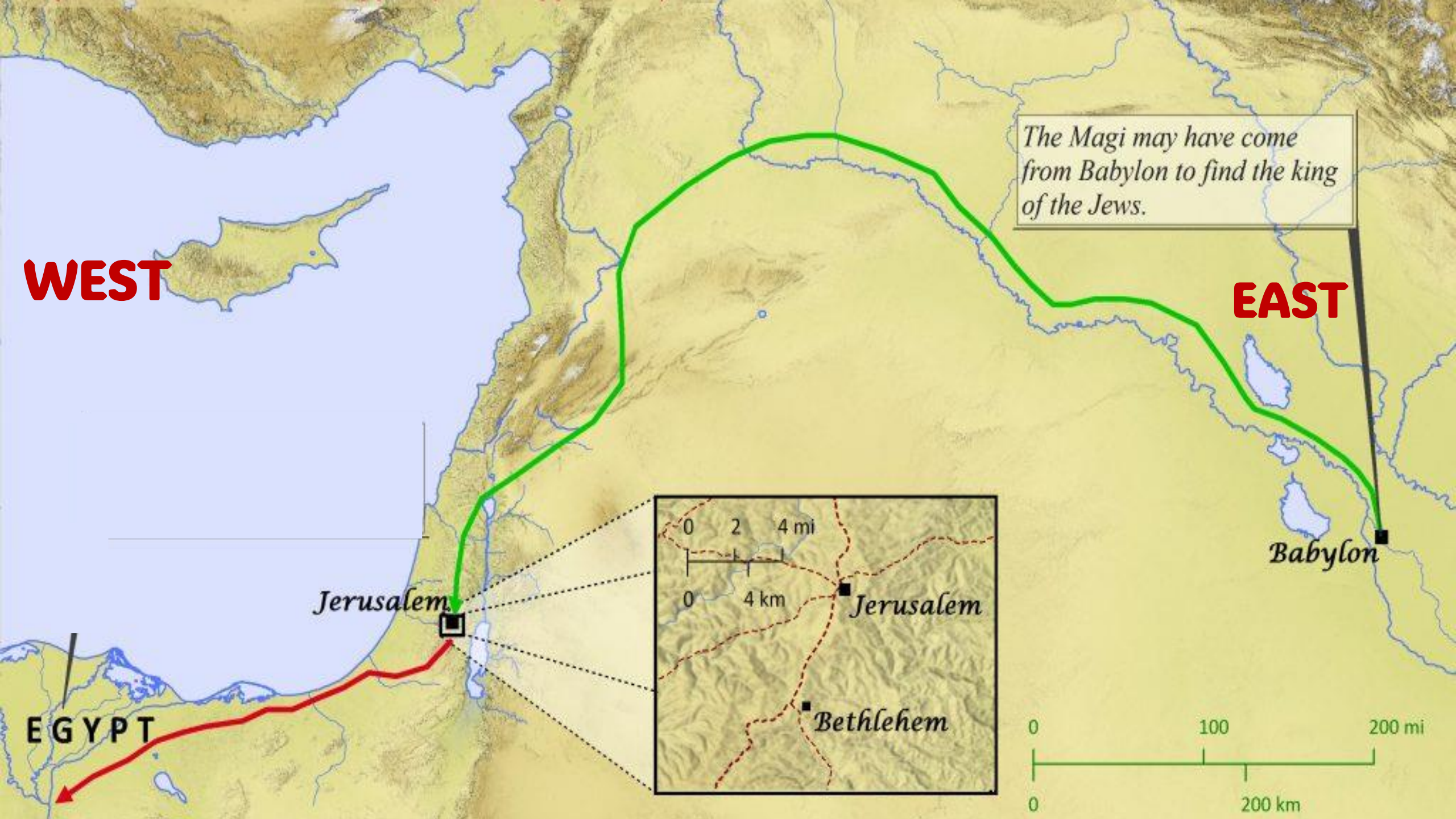
Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod,
they returned to their country
BY ANOTHER WAY.


JUPITER
SATURN
PISCES CONSTELLATION

On coming to the **house,**

they saw **the child**

with his mother Mary…


WEST
EAST
The Magi may have come from Babylon to find the king of the Jews.
Babylon
Jerusalem
EGYPT
0 2 4 mi
0 4 km
Jerusalem
Bethlehem
0 100 200 mi
0 200 km

There's a Song in the Air – UMH 249

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

Community Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You came to earth to save all of God's people, not just selected ones. This too was made clear as a group of wise men who studied the stars arrived to worship You, along with the shepherds, angels, and many others. There were no limits on the demographics of those who worshiped You, and the same is absolutely true now. All are welcome into Your kingdom whenever they choose to come, everyone.

The Magi worked diligently to look for the star they expected to light their way. They kept their focus on one thing only: making sure they found You, and in that process had that dramatic moment of truth. What an epiphany! ***Amen***

Offering

We give thanks for this wonderful,
generous community of faith.

Doxology

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what can I give Him — Give my heart.

Communion

Holy Communion

All are welcome to this, Christ's table, as we come together as one holy family. In this sacred space, let us put aside other thoughts and concerns as we open our hearts and minds to Him.

Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Our heavenly Father, You know how often we stumble.

We don't come to this table trusting in ourselves;

but instead, trusting in You and Your unfailing mercy.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, which proves

His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. ***Amen***

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

People: ***and also with you.***

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you. Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might,
God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who
Blessed is he who

Comes in the name of the Lord.
Comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said, "*Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as your drink it, in remembrance of me.*"

… And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Photo by James Gardner

All honor and glory is yours,

almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. ***Amen***

Breaking of the Bread

Lifting of the Cup

Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.

Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share

is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

Partaking of the Elements

Benediction

Art by Sue Carroll