

**ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
*A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

—Elder David Ray

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets

at many times and in various ways,

<sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

whom he appointed heir of all things,

and through whom he made the universe.

<sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

**WORSHIP THROUGH SONG**

*Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART I**

—SCOTT ROLEY

**WITNESSES TO HIS GLORY:**

**Experiencing Christmas in Word, Song, Art and Story**

*The Feast Of The Epiphany*

Matthew 2:1-18

The conclusion of the Advent season is the traditional date known as Epiphany. It falls on the twelfth night of Christmas and is usually celebrated on January sixth. The worship includes a feast and has its historic roots in the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. The word Epiphany means to show, or make known. It is the perfect prelude for our return next week to the Unveiled (Epiphany) Hope found in the book of Revelation. This sermon could easily be called *The Feast Of Unveiled Hope*.

Today, we will join the Christian Church around the world as we feast on Jesus' supper and rejoice in His goodness. This event is best demonstrated by a look at the Magi found in Matthew's Gospel and the gifts that they brought the baby Jesus. These traditional Wise Men or scholarly spiritual advisors came to Jesus from what is now modern Kurdistan in Northern Iraq. They came with gifts to give the new born King of the Jews. What a model for us of coming to Jesus and giving Him what we have. The paradox being, what do we give to Jesus that He hasn't first given us? It is wonderful to start 2008 affirming that we are not owners, but stewards of all things...including our most treasured possessions. Let us begin the New Year with feasting hearts hungering and longing for a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus.

**JESUS CAUSES US TO SINCERELY SEEK HIM : Matthew 2:1-6.**

God's Holy Spirit is at work throughout the world in every generation calling His own. As we respond to Jesus we become like the Wise Men, following the one who came and found us.

- 1) The Lord calls us to be with Him.
- 2) The Magi, like us, respond to Jesus' call from wherever they are.
- 3) Jesus is a disturbing presence to each of us.
- 4) Our resistance to Jesus is demonstrated in Herod's foul plan.

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**How Many Kings**

Follow the star to a place unexpected

Would you believe after all we've projected

A child in a manger

Lowly and small, the weakest of all

Unlikeliest hero, wrapped in his mothers shawl

Just a child

Is this who we've waited for?

Cause how many kings, stepped down from their thrones?

How many lords have abandoned their homes?

How many greats have become the least for me?

How many Gods have poured out their hearts

To romance a world that has torn all apart?

How many fathers gave up their sons for me?

Bringing our gifts for the newborn savior

All that we have whether costly or meek

Because we believe

Gold for his honor and frankincense for his pleasure  
And myrrh for the cross he'll suffer  
Do you believe, is this who we've waited for?  
It's who we've waited for

How many kings, stepped down from their thrones?  
How many lords have abandoned their homes?  
How many greats have become the least for me?  
How many Gods have poured out their hearts  
To romance a world that has torn all apart?  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?  
Only one did that for me

All for me  
All for you  
All for me  
All for you

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PARTS 2&3

— SCOTT ROLEY

### **JESUS CAUSES US TO FIND HIM AND FEAST: Matthew 2:7-12.**

With a profound sense of Sovereign Grace, the Magi are the first Gentiles to believe and worship Jesus. Even the Chief Priests and Teachers of the law of Israel, who knew the prophecies, didn't take time to go see Jesus.

- 1) The Wise Men follow the star.
- 2) The Wise Men worship the King of the Jews.
- 3) The Magi bring what they have, gifts of Gold, Incense and Myrrh.
- 4) Our collapsing on Jesus is demonstrated in the Wise Men's worshipping (feasting) on Christ.

### **JESUS CAUSES US TO SEEK AND FIND OTHERS: Matthew 2:13-18.**

Jesus is the Light of the World and through us makes His light known in all the dark places of the community and culture.

- 1) Jesus was an Asian born baby.
- 2) Jesus' family fled to North Africa as refugees.
- 3) Thirty years later Jesus commanded us to go to the Nations.
- 4) The need for justice to the ends of the earth is demonstrated in the slaughter of the innocent children.

## COMMUNION

*Welcome to our celebration of the Lord's Supper. All who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior are invited to be served. If you do not profess saving faith in Jesus, we ask that you refrain from taking communion and encourage you to prayerfully consider speaking with a Pastor or Elder. To receive the bread and cup--the body and blood of Christ broken and shed for you-- please come forward to the nearest table and an Elder will serve you. Elders and Deacons are available to help guide you. If you cannot come to the table, please let a Deacon or Elder know and you will be served at your seat.*

## DEACONS OFFERING

*We who drink of Jesus' grace are to be those who offer a cup of cold water of mercy in his name.*

## BENEDICTION



NOTES:

**TODAY DURING THE PASTORAL PRAYER WE SPECIFICALLY PRAYED FOR OUR  
CCC in the Military: *Please remember these men and women in your prayers.***

Lance Cpl. Robert A. Borquez—U.S. Marines  
PFC Heather Brown—U.S. Army  
SSG Russell (Rusty) Elliot—U.S. Army Reserve  
Airman FC David Farris II—U.S. Air Force  
Ranger Eric Fold—U.S. Army  
Lance Cpl. J.D. Gill—U.S. Marine Reserves  
Captain Jacob Leim—U.S. Army  
SPC Joshua Lively—TN Army National Guard  
Chris Loflin—U.S. Special Forces  
Warrant Officer Kyle Malone —U.S. Army Air Force  
Chaplain W. Michael Oliver – U.S. Army  
Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Oosting—TN National Guard  
CW2 Douglas Pennington—Denver National Guard  
Captain Paul Roley—U.S. Army  
1st Lt. Eric Scherrer—U.S. Marines  
Medic Lucas Shaffer—U.S. Army  
Captain Mike Spikes—U.S. Army Chaplain  
Lt. James Summerville—U.S. Air Force  
Ensign Josh Thurman—U.S. Navy Seal  
Airman Stephen Turley, Jr., VF-213—U.S. Navy  
AT3 Christopher Turley, VFA-131—U.S. Navy  
Second Lt. Ryan Van Zee—U.S. Army  
Lance CPL Mario Veloz—U.S. Marines  
PFC Richard Veloz—U.S. Marines  
PFC Chance Wagonfield —U.S. Army  
First Lt. Bryan Williams—U.S. Air Force  
Sergeant Grant Wolf—US Army Reserve



**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:**

1. What points from today's sermon had the greatest impact on you?
2. How do you relate to the idea that God has pursued you? Does it seem to connect with your experience of receiving Christ? Describe your conversion to someone in your group and share the differences each of you had in coming to Jesus.
3. How has God continued to make you a seeker of His truth?
4. How is the grace of God revealed in His giving you gifts that you give back to him?
5. How has God equipped you to give to others? What resources has he given you stewardship over that could make a difference in a broken world?
6. Take time to pray for one another, asking the Lord to continue leading you as His child, so that you might experience real relationship with Him this New Year.