

Advent Devotional - Day 12

2025

December 12th



Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2 Verse: *“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 when it rose and have come to worship him.””*

Reflection:

The Magi show that finding Jesus often requires leaving what’s familiar and following a long, costly path. They crossed borders, listened for signs, and kept going even when the way was uncertain. Their worship was patient, curious, and sacrificial—more than gifts, they offered themselves.

In a diverse city that means we shouldn’t expect everyone to come or worship the same way we do. Be open to people whose customs, language, or fashion styles look different; learn from them and make space for forms of praise that translate across cultures and generations. Hospitality that truly welcomes will bend and change rather than insist everything fit one familiar pattern.

Finally, the Magi remind us to pay attention to the small signs God gives and to have the humility to follow them. Seeking God might mean a long trip, a risky choice, or a simple act of bowing down. If we’re willing to travel and to listen, we may find that God shows up in unexpected places and people.

Prayer:

God, draw seekers from every background to your presence and give us hearts wide enough to welcome them with humility, curiosity, and generous hospitality. Teach us to notice your signs, leave our comforts, and bow before you in love. Amen.

Today’s Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Organize or participate in regular neighborhood church walks, café conversations, or home visits focused on listening, not selling programs. (For example: Take a small, visible team to community hubs (parks, shelters, clinics, or our own front lawn) with coffee, snacks, and open ears.)



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