

Advent Devotional - Day 13

2025

December 13th

Scripture: Matthew 2:9-11 Verse: *"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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, frankincense and myrrh."*



Reflection:

The Magi didn't bring trinkets; they offered what mattered most—their wealth, their time, their travel. Their gifts named who the child was: a king worthy of honor and a person whose life would change everything. Worship that costs something points toward a truth we can't ignore: reverence becomes real when it demands sacrifice

If our worship truly honors Christ, it won't stay confined to a Sunday hour. It spills into how we steward what we've been given—time, skills, money—toward work that cares for our community. That means supporting initiatives that feed the hungry, mentor young people, and repair broken systems, not just padding our own comfort.

True generosity doesn't simply maintain familiar routines; it rewrites them. It asks who goes without and then moves resources and people to meet those needs. When Mt. Hope worships with this attitude, our giving becomes an act of love that changes lives and points others back to the heart of God.

Prayer:

God, receive our gifts and shape our hearts to give as the Magi gave—sacrificially, humbly, and with eyes for our community. Turn our praise into service, our offerings into mercy, and our lives into witness so your kingdom is known in streets where need is greatest. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Create or participate in a Community Care Team that meets monthly to evaluate neighborhood needs and approve small grants or "Neighbor Impact Projects."



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