

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



Epiphany of the Lord
7 January 2024 - Year B

**“We have come from the East to
worship the King.”**

Something to Think About

Can you imagine what it might be like to travel on the back of a camel for months or even years across a vast desert? Imagine how happy the wise men must have felt to have finally found Jesus!

The Story

After Jesus was born, some wise men noticed a bright star and knew that the Messiah had arrived. They followed the star and travelled for a long time. They went first to King Herod, perhaps because they thought this special baby would be born in a palace. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to welcome the child. When King Herod heard about the new baby, he was not pleased. He thought his power was in danger. He wanted the wise men to tell him where baby Jesus was. The wise men set out for Bethlehem and found the place where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were staying. They gave Jesus their gifts, and worshipped him. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they went home a different way.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew **2:1-12**

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'"

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they kneeled down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video. [The Wise Men](#)



Group Discussion

If baby Jesus had been born today in your city, what would you have liked to give him? Maybe you would have painted a magnificent picture. Perhaps you would have written a poem or a letter. Maybe you would have played a musical instrument or sung a song to make him smile. Talk together about the gifts that you and your family could have given the baby Jesus.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for the leaders of our Church and our world as they work for peace. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for all who search for Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for the sick and the suffering. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will follow the light of Christ. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will show our love for God by loving others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,
You give us so many good gifts.
Help us to be grateful every day
and to see the light of Jesus in
everyone we meet.
Amen.

Group Activity

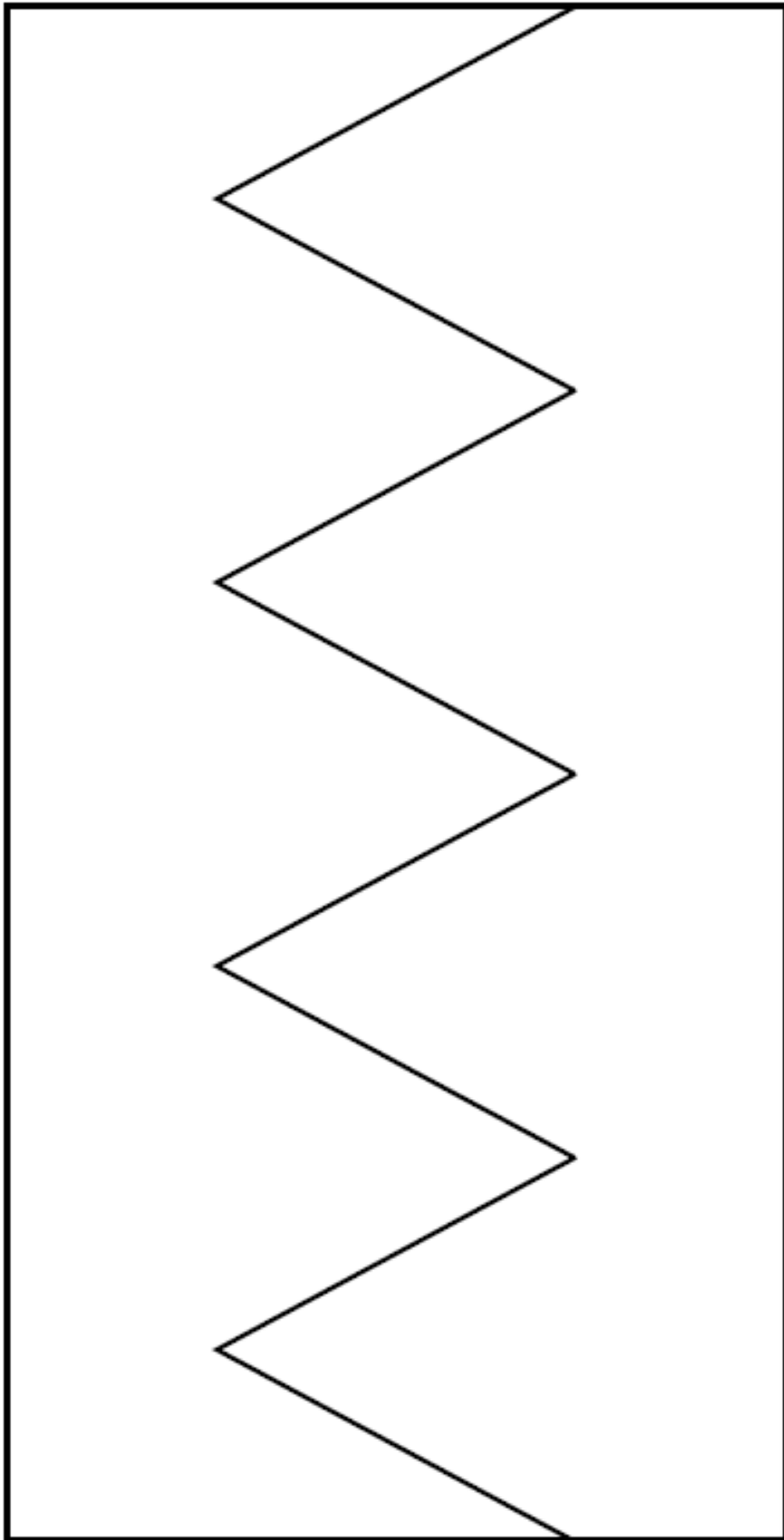
PAPER CROWNS

You will need: 2 or 3 templates printed on paper or card stock for each child, scissors, felt-tip pens, glue, stapler, stickers, glitter, shapes cut from coloured paper or foil gift wrap

- Cut out the rectangle and then along the zigzag line for each of the crown templates. Glue, tape, or staple the sections together to make a band long enough to go around the child's head.
- Lay the band out flat and invite the children to decorate their crown.
- When the decorating process is finished, glue, tape or staple the ends together to form a crown.



Paper Crowns - Epiphany



FIND THE THREE WISE MEN AND WORSHIP HIM



USE PLAY-DOH TO MAKE YOUR OWN NATIVITY SET.

You will need to make Mary and Joseph and the baby in the manger.

Now make the three wise men following the star to find Jesus.

If you like, you can also make a shepherd and sheep.