

## 01.05.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “The First Christmas - The Magi”

**Scripture Reading:** [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

**Reflection:** Pastor Henry

One of the things that stood out to me as Pastor Doug took us through his [“Advent: The First Christmas”](#) sermon series this Advent and Christmas season was the variety and diversity of people involved in the first Christmas story. Each week, as we looked at the different people connected to the first Christmas story, God opened my eyes and heart to see the smorgasbord of characters involved.

Consider with me once again for a moment some of the people we have looked at the past few weeks: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zachariah, Caesar Augustus, King Herod, the shepherds out in the fields, Simeon, Anna, and the people of Nazareth and Bethlehem. Most of them, are much younger than we typically imagine (Mary and the shepherds). Others are older than we might typically imagine (Zechariah, Elizabeth, Anna). A lot of common everyday folks (Mary, Joseph, shepherds), but also those in positions of power and influence in the temple (Zechariah) and Roman government (Herod).

Then this week, even more characters join the story. This week we explored the Magi from the east who showed up on the scene on account of a star they had seen. Wise men, Matthew calls them. The Magi were educated men who advised and counseled kings and rulers, in this case from the kingdoms of the east. They saw a star and came from afar to worship and adore the newborn King of the Jews.

What should we make of this new set of characters from the east?

Pastor Doug in his message reminds us why they too are so important to the Christmas story. The story of Magi he says “...underscores the impact of Christ’s coming on the Gentile world. The visit of Eastern sages has great significance. The Magi were not only Gentiles; they were pagans. The fact that Gentile magi came and offered the same adoration as the Jewish shepherds symbolizes the universal outreach of Christ.”

Friends, the good news for us in the Christmas story is that God sent his Son Jesus for everyone!

The Christ child wasn’t born just for a few people. He was born for everyone. Jesus was born for the young and old, male and female, commoner and royalty, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, social outcasts and the social elite, country folks and city dwellers, priests and peasants, teachers of the law, and tenders of sheep (See [Galatians 3:15-29](#); [Colossians 3:1-17](#)). This newborn king was even for the educated advisors to the kings of the east and also for people just like you and me.

**Prayer:**

O God who quickens the faith that brought Magi from the east, who kindles the hope that brought captives from exile, and who inspires the love that brings strangers together, let the light that shone in the darkness shine

upon us. Let it shine within us, that it might refine our selfish and divided hearts. Let it shine around us, that it might illumine the way that leads to our neighbors. And let it shine above us, that it might reveal the Christ who manifests your presence. Amen

-From the Worship Sourcebook

**Action Item for the Day/Week:**

The Christ child came for all people. Pray today for any people groups or types of people who come to mind that are often “left out” or forgotten.

**Songs for today:**

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

[Savior of the Nations Come](#)