



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title:** God with the Outsiders

**Speaker:** Shauna Rushing - Pastor of Small Groups & Communities

**Scriptures:** Matthew 2: 1-12

### **The Magi Visit the Messiah**

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem **2** 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.”

**3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6** “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’[b]”

**7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9** 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. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** 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. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### **Sermon Summary:**

On this last Sunday of 2024, we will follow the path of the Magi in discovering the King they were seeking outside the places of power and prestige with a message from Pastor Shauna.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. Share a story about a time that you felt like an outsider.
2. After reading the Scripture passage and hearing the sermon, did you notice anything different or new in the story of Jesus, King Herod, and the Magi?
3. How do the names of Jesus “God Saves,” Messiah “The Anointed One,” and Emmanuel “God With Us” and the way he chose to come to earth speak to you about who he is and what he came to do.
4. Compare and contrast the ways of Emmanuel versus the way of the empire. Where do you need courage to follow in the way of Jesus as you move into 2025?
5. What people, practices and posture do you want to intentionally pursue to help guide you in Emmanuel’s way?