

JESUS CHANGED MY LIFE
MAGI - He Is Now My Object of Worship
Advent Worship Series – Week 3
December 16, 2007

WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES
 Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

Announcements and Offering

SB#100 – Angels, from the realms of glory	TB-398 – Come and Worship (Regent Sq.)	HTD4-T12 (4 vs.)
Additional Optional Songs		
SB#113 – Joy to the world!	TB-87 – Joy to the World!	HTD4-T9 (3 vs.)
SB#114 – Light of the world	TB-653 – Here I am to Worship	
HC#146 – Here I am to Worship	HC-146	HCD13-T16
SB#116 – O come, all ye faithful	TB-496 – Adeste Fideles	HTD3 –T1 (3 vs.)
HC#140 – O Come, All Ye Faithful	HC-140	HCD12-T20

Call to Worship:

Suppose you could give a gift to Christ, what would it be? How could you possibly select a gift for the One who not only has everything, but who made everything?

The Wise Men did. They can be an example to us. In addition to the gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they gave the Savior some gifts we can give him today: their hope, their time, and their worship.

The wandering wise men gave Jesus their hope. When everyone else saw a night sky, this small band of men saw the light. The sight of the star sparked a desire in their hearts that sent them packing. They went, seeking Jesus.

(One Incredible Moment, page 41)

SB#76 – As with gladness men of old	TB-306 - Dix	None
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Additional Optional Songs		
SB#92 – When wise men came seeking for Jesus from far	TB-567 – Normandy Carol	none

SB#101 – As with gladness men of old	TB-276 – Dix	HTD11-T3
Additional Optional Songs		
HC#146 – Here I am to Worship	HC-146	HCD13-T16
HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty	HC-219	HCD20-T19
HC#220 – Incarnate	HC-220	HCD20-T20
HC#226 – I Worship You	HC-226	HCD21-T16
SB#129 – We three kings of Orient are:	TB-915 – same	HTD10-T12 (3 vs.)
SB#130 – When Christ drew near to dwell with men	TB-4 – Armadale	No CD
SB#131 – When wise men came seeking for Jesus from far,	TB-507 – Normandy Carol TB-497 – Away in a Manger	HTD11-T6 (3 vs.) HTD6-T3 (3 vs.)

Responsive Scripture/Candle Lighting:

Leader: When night comes to your world, what do you see? The darkness or the stars? Hopelessness or hopefulness? Sometimes, just as he did so long ago, God uses the darkness to reveal his stars—“The light shines in the darkness” (John 1:5). If your heart has been shadowed by the darkness of loneliness or grief or disappointment, look for the light that only he can give. “I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness but will have the light that gives life” (John 8:12).

Solo 1: Come, let us adore him.

Solo 2: Immanuel, God with us.

[Lighting of the third Advent candle.]

Solo 2: As we light the third candle, we are called to open our hearts to the miracle of Christ's coming and to his plan for our lives.

Solo 1: Give God your time. The wise men did. Before they gave God their gifts, they gave their *presence*. It's likely that these men traveled as long as two years before locating the prince of heaven. Before that one incredible moment when they knelt before Jesus, the wise men spent many moments, months, perhaps years searching, in anticipation of that meeting. Just as the wise men devoted themselves to seeking the Savior, so can you:

Solo 2: “You will seek him and find him when you seek him with all of your heart” (Deuteronomy 4:29).

[NOTE: It is recommended that either the movie clip *OR* the drama be chosen for the service—*NOT BOTH*.]

Movie Clip



The Nativity Story – The Journey of a Lifetime, a Story for All Time
(Distributed by New Line Home Entertainment)

Scene 20

Start: 1:25:28 Wise men traveling

End: 1:28:56 Nativity scene

Optional Movie Clips

Close to Jesus – The Stories of Those He Touched

Disc 2 – Joseph of Nazareth

(Distributed by Artisan Home Entertainment)

Scene 11

Start: 1:05:34 “Where is the king of the Jews?”

End: 1:09:00 “...prince, priest, prophet”

Jesus of Nazareth (Distributed by Artisan Home Entertainment)

Scene 21

Start: 59:14 Mary & Joseph walk down hill

End: 1:02:01 Mary

Mary of Nazareth (Distributed by Questar, Inc.)

Scene 6

Start: 26:45 Kings enter to visit Herod

End: 29:31 Kings leaving Bethlehem

Drama: Fit for a King

Reading:

Men of wealth, influence, and intellect: what did they do when they saw Jesus?
“...They fell down and *worshipped* him” (Matthew 2:11).

Worship. It’s a gift that extends to the giver as well. Through worship we come to see God more clearly. God invites us, through worship, to see his face so he can change ours. “We all show the Lord’s glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

He loves to change the faces of his children. By his fingers, wrinkles of worry are rubbed away. Shadows of shame and doubt become portraits of grace and trust. He relaxes clenched jaws and smooths furrowed brows.

The wise men sought the child of God, just as God seeks his children. “The Father is actively seeking such people to worship him” (John 4:23).

The gifts of hope, time, and worship. Three gifts the wise will give.

(One Incredible Moment, pages 42-44)

HC#136 – We All Bow Down	HC-136	HCD12-T16
Additional Optional Songs		
SB#153 – Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown	TB-94 – Margaret	HTD10 –T6 (4 vs.)
HC#146 – Here I am to Worship	HC-146	HCD13-T16
HC#169 – Hallelujah	HC-169	HCD15-T19
HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty	HC-219	HCD20-T19
HC#220 – Incarnate	HC-220	HCD20-T20
HC#226 – I Worship You	HC-226	HCD21-T16
HC#168 – Offering (Words below)	HC-168	HCD15-T18
<p>"Christmas Offering" (Christmas words)</p> <p>Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star While angels sang to lowly shepherds Three wisemen seeking truth, they traveled from afar Hoping to find the Child from Heaven falling on their knees They bow before the humble Prince of peace</p> <p>We bring an offering of worship to our King No one on earth deserves the praises that we sing Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due O Lord, I bring an offering to You</p> <p>Continue song with original words</p>		

Congregational Prayer: [Select someone from the congregation to read the following prayer from their seat.]

Thankfully, Lord, there are times when my heart seeks you as the wise men did...when I am diligent in searching for you...when I am delighted at any sign pointing the way...when I am down on my knees in your presence. Multiply those times in my life, Lord.

Thank you for the stars and the dreams and the Scriptures and the many ways you reveal yourself. Give me eyes to see you in the circumstances of my life, ears to hear you in the

Scriptures, feet to find you in the Bethlehems of this world, hands to bring you my gifts, knees to bow before you, and a heart overflowing with worship.

(Moments With the Savior, page 46)

Message – Magi—He is Now My Object of Worship

O Come Let Us Adore Him		No CD
Additional Optional Songs		
SB#104 – Who is he in yonder stall	TB-319 – Who is he?	HTD10-T19 (6 vs.)
SB#118 – O little town of Bethlehem	TB-136 – same	HTD3-T5 (3 vs.) Bethlehem
HC#120 – In the Manger	HC-120	HCD10-T20
HC#123 – Shine on Us	HC-123	HCD11-T13
HC#136 – We All Bow Down	HC-136	HCD12-T16
HC#146 – Here I am to Worship	HC-146	HCD13-T16
HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty	HC-219	HCD20-T19
HC#220 – Incarnate	HC-220	HCD20-T20
HC#226 – I Worship You	HC-226	HCD21-T16

Benediction:

Lord Jesus, we come with praise and thanksgiving for the marvel and miracle of your birth we celebrate this season. Come once again to us this hour that we may rejoice because you have been born in our hearts. We pray that in all our labors, in all our relationships, in all of our life, you will live and love through us, in all our seasons of life, as our Savior and Lord. In your name, we pray.

(Colonel Henry Gariepy)

Vocal Benediction – HC#140 – O Come, All Ye Faithful	HC-140	HCD12-T20
SB#85 – O come, all ye faithful	TB-552 – Adeste Fideles	HTD3-T1 (3 vs.)
Additional Optional Songs		
HC#61 – Crown Him King of Kings	HC-61	HCD5-T11
HC#141 – All Hail the Power	HC-141	HCD13-T11
HC#149 – In Christ Alone	HC-149	HCD13-T19
HC#151 – Fairest Lord Jesus	HC-151	HCD14-T11
SB#112 – It was on a starry night	TB-535 – same	
HC#180	HC-280	HCD16-T20
HC#260 – Go, Tell it on the Mountain	HC-260	HCD24-T20

Week # 3	
DRAMA	
Fit for a King	
By Martyn Scott Thomas	
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Topic:	Worship
Scripture:	Matthew 2:1-12
Synopsis:	A wise man reflects on giving the perfect gift.
Characters:	Caspar – a Magi from the East.
Props/Costumes:	Biblical or modern dress.
Setting:	Bare stage.
Running Time:	3 minutes.

Caspar: For some people, giving a gift can be an agonizing experience. First, they have to find just the right gift to give. They will check all the stores and all the sales, look at countless items trying to determine if it's the right size and the right color, and eventually come home empty-handed.

Others will rush out and buy the first thing they can find, make sure they get a gift receipt, wrap it quickly and be done with it. Some just buy gift cards.

I like to take a more scientific approach. I like to carefully consider to whom the gift will be given. I want to find out as much as I can about the person; what they like, what they have, what they need. I want to make sure it will be a gift used and remembered. It must be significant and appropriate for the recipient and the occasion.

Such an occasion presented itself when my friends and I first saw the star in the sky. We immediately began researching its meaning, investigating what exactly it marked. We soon found out that it pointed to the birth of a Jewish king and we prepared to go and pay honor.

Before we left, we did some more research. We studied the Jewish holy writings to find out all we could about this king. We read the prophecies concerning him and let them guide our choice of gifts. We also wanted to give to him something representative of our lands.

Melchior decided on gold, a gift for a king, and abundant in his land. I settled on frankincense, a perfume used in worship, and worthy of a priest. Balthasar brought the most intriguing gift, myrrh, a spice used for burial. After reading the prophecies concerning this king, he felt that it would have future significance.

So, we set off on our journey, traveling across the wilderness, guided by his star. Months went by and we finally reached Jerusalem. As was

custom, we stopped at the palace to inquire of King Herod the whereabouts of the child king. He seemed unaware and immediately called the Jewish religious leaders to find out what their scriptures said about him. We were then sent to Bethlehem with instructions to report back to Herod all that we found.

Upon our arrival, we found the family and the boy. We presented our carefully selected gifts to him; gold, frankincense and myrrh. But, then we offered something else; something significant and appropriate for the recipient and the occasion. We bowed down and we offered our worship. For this child was meant not only to be an earthly king, but a heavenly one as well.

The best gifts are always those that are given from the heart and with great meaning. I don't think we could have given Jesus anything better than our adoration and praise. It seems that's what he needed most.

[Blackout]

JESUS CHANGED MY LIFE

Advent Sermon – Week 3

December 16, 2007

Magi—He Is Now My Object of Worship

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

On this third Sunday in Advent, we are going to focus on the Wise men. Sometimes they are also known as the three kings, or the Magi. These travelers from the east, who play such an important role in the Matthew's Nativity narrative, have also been the subjects of Christmas carols, movies, and even operas. Most likely, the Magi were on their journey for quite some time. Some commentators speculate the Magi visit may have taken place up to two years after the birth of Jesus. That means the Magi were most likely not at the manger scene we often see during the Advent season.

Over the years, there has been a great amount of speculation about the Magi. Precisely from where in the east did the Magi begin their journey? How many Magi were there? Recently I came across another interesting bit of speculation: "Do you know what would have happened if there had been three wise WOMEN instead of three wise MEN? The three wise WOMEN would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the Baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given practical gifts".

Although I don't necessarily agree with all of the conclusions of that observation (after all, didn't they ask for directions (vs.2)?), the visit of the Magi does show that this child, this Jesus we worship is special, and the fulfillment of prophesy. Included in the first covenant God makes with Abraham, is the promise "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:3). Jesus is more than just the Jewish Messiah, He is destined to be the blessing for everyone on Earth. When the Magi came and worshiped, they were the first of millions of gentiles granted God's favor because of the gift of His Son.

There are several lessons we can learn from the Magi. However, this morning, we are going to look at three specific lessons. If we adopt similar behaviors and attitudes, we too will experience God's grace in the person of Jesus, we will worship and we will be changed.

I. Lesson 1 – Clear Focus is the Foundation of True Worship.

- A. The Magi knew and kept moving toward their object of worship.
 - i. The Magi knew what they were seeking – "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him" (Matt 2:2).
 - ii. They followed a star, which meant they were traveling by night. Many have speculated as to whether the star the Magi followed was actually a conjunction of planets, a supernova, or a comet. Others believe the star in Matthew's gospel is precisely what he says - a supernatural object God places in the sky for just that occasion. Whatever it was, it was pretty amazing because it led the Magi on their journey.

- iii. The Magi were excellent examples of the truth Jesus spoke of in Matthew 7:7 according to the Amplified Bible: “keep on seeking and you will find”.
- B. The Magi did not allow obstacles to distract them from their goal.
- i. The star got the Magi close to their goal. However, when they arrived at Jerusalem, they started asking about the child. What happened to the star? Did it get cloudy, or perhaps the star had stopped or had even disappeared. In the face of an obstacle, the Magi had a decision to make.
 - ii. Their decision was actually the same as ours today whenever we face an obstacle. Do we allow the obstacles and challenges we face in life to distract us, or do we stay focused on our goal of worshiping and serving God?
 - iii. Have you ever noticed how easy it is to become distracted during worship? Any number of things can pull us away from the very reason we come together: to worship Christ the Lord.
 - iv. The Magi had change their strategy to keep their search alive. They decided to ask for help in finding the child. They asked in the most logical place – Jerusalem. Jerusalem just a few miles from Bethlehem was the heart of the Jewish religious, political and cultural life. Why wouldn’t the child who was born King of the Jews be found there?
 - v. It is interesting that the pagan Magi had caught the significance of Jesus’ birth, but the Jewish religious experts missed it. The fourth verse says, “When he (Herod) had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the **Christ** was to be born.” Instead of joining the Magi in their search for the Messiah in Bethlehem, the chief priests and teachers of the law were content to act as Herod’s first century version of Google. They missed the blessing God had been telling them to expect for hundreds of years.
- C. God blesses the Magi’s faithfulness
- i. Learning about Bethlehem, the Magi leave Herod to find the child. As they leave Herod’s palace, the star reappears and leads them to Bethlehem. The star’s reappearing must have been a confirmation to the Magi. Their response? It was great joy.
 - ii. The Magi make their way from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and locate the house where Jesus and His parents are living. Actually, it probably wasn’t that hard to find Mary, Joseph and Jesus in Bethlehem. Luke says the shepherds were not shy about telling others their story (Luke 2:17).

Having found the king, the Magi moved on the next aspect of their goal. They wanted to not only **find** the child who had been born

King of the Jews, they then wanted to **worship** Him. That leads us to the next lesson we can learn from the Magi . . .

II. Lesson 2 – Preparation Precedes True Worship.

- A. Preparation – The motto of the Boy Scouts is: “Be Prepared.” The Magi were prepared to worship. The Magi had the gifts ready. They didn’t wait to see if they could find them in Bethlehem.
- B. Worship – Lately, when someone says worship most people think two ways: a religious service, or singing a bunch of praise choruses. But, what is worship?
- i. Worship is directed to a person or object. Of the four definitions Webster’s Dictionary offers, two are particularly helpful. The first is: “the reverence offered a supernatural being.” The other is: “extravagant respect or admiration for an object of esteem”.
 - ii. The original Greek word for worship means “to kiss towards.” The imagery here is of bowing to the ground and literally kissing the ground upon which the object of worship is standing. That posture is acknowledging that the object of worship is greater than us – that it is worthy of our respect or reverence.
 - iii. Worship is participatory. Teacher and author, Robert Weber wrote a book several years ago reminding us that “Worship is a Verb.” The main idea is: worship is **not** a spectator sport. All of us who gather on a Sunday morning are participants and God is the object, the focus of everything that is said or done.
 - iv. Worship can also be an attitude. We can approach life with an attitude of reverence and in constant awareness of God’s love, presence, and provision. When we have that attitude, worship is a natural outflow.
- C. Present Gifts – The Magi presented their gifts to Jesus. They expected to meet this King and they were prepared with the proper gifts. The gifts were not only signs of respect, they also said something about their attitude and something about the sort of king they expecting to find.
- i. Gold – the gift for kings
 - ii. Frankincense – the gift for Deity
 - iii. Myrrh – the gift for one destined to be a redeeming sacrifice for the world.
- D. What attitude, what gifts do we bring?

III. Lesson 3 – Our Priorities and Behavior will change as a result of True Worship.

- A. After worshipping, the Magi received direction not to return to Herod.

- i. The Magi realized this Jesus, this King they had just seen and worshipped was more important than Herod who was in the palace. These are stark, contrasting pictures of grasped and real power.
- ii. Herod, who was not even a Jew, but an Idumean, had taken power which he regularly used and abused for his own selfish purposes. He had forgotten that earthly power is a gift from God (John 19:11). Herod had also forgotten that the true role of a king is to be a servant of the people, and that a leader's power comes from those who follow.
- iii. Jesus, on the other hand, was King because that was His place as the only begotten Son of the Heavenly Father. He was in a house, not a palace, but the Magi recognized, here was One who had true authority and power.

B. When we sincerely approach our Holy God in worship, we too, will be changed.

- i. We will see where our priorities need to be rearranged because we now know who is God – not us, but Him.
- ii. In the same way as Isaiah experienced in the 6th chapter, we will realize the extent of our sinfulness and our need for cleansing (vs 5-7). We will then be in a position to hear and respond to God's voice and direction (vs. 8-9).
- iii. Like the Magi, is there a new direction God needs to send you? Without spending time with Him, you will not be in a position to hear.

As we continue our preparation on this third Sunday in Advent, let's pause, worship, and listen for God's voice. That voice may tell us we've allowed our focus to wander, or become obstructed. This season is a great time to refocus on Jesus, the One who is worthy of our worship. That voice may reveal to us that we've allowed our lives to be so busy, that we miss great blessings because neglect to prepare our hearts to worship. This morning, having come into His presence and worshipped together, what is God revealing you need to change?

