



Epiphany

What is Epiphany?

- 12th day of the Twelve Days of Christmas.
- January 6 (sometimes observed Sunday following)
- Epiphany—to reveal, to show, to make known, manifestation
 - *Associated with light*
- Most associate with visit from Magi
- Epiphany season

Epiphany Quiz

- When does Epiphany begin?
 - January 6
- Where in Scripture do we read the visit of the Magi?
 - Matthew 2
- How many Magi were there?
 - Don't know. 3 gifts. Kings? Magi?

Epiphany Quiz

- Names of Wise Men?
 - Don't know.
 - Legend: Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar
- Celebration of Epiphany is a new tradition.
True or False?
 - False. As early as 194 CE we read of Epiphany festivals.
- The Wise Men were Jewish. *True or False?*
 - False. Foreigners. “From the East.”

Epiphany Scriptures

- Isaiah 60:1-6
 - Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Epiphany Scriptures

- Isaiah 60:1-6 *continued*
 - A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Epiphany Scriptures

- Isaiah 60:1-6 *continued*
 - Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Epiphany Scriptures

- Psalm 72
 - Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice...

Epiphany Scriptures

- Psalm 72 *continued*
 - May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

Epiphany Scriptures

- Matthew 2:1-12
 - In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Epiphany Scriptures

- Matthew 2:1-12 *continued*
 - They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Epiphany Scriptures

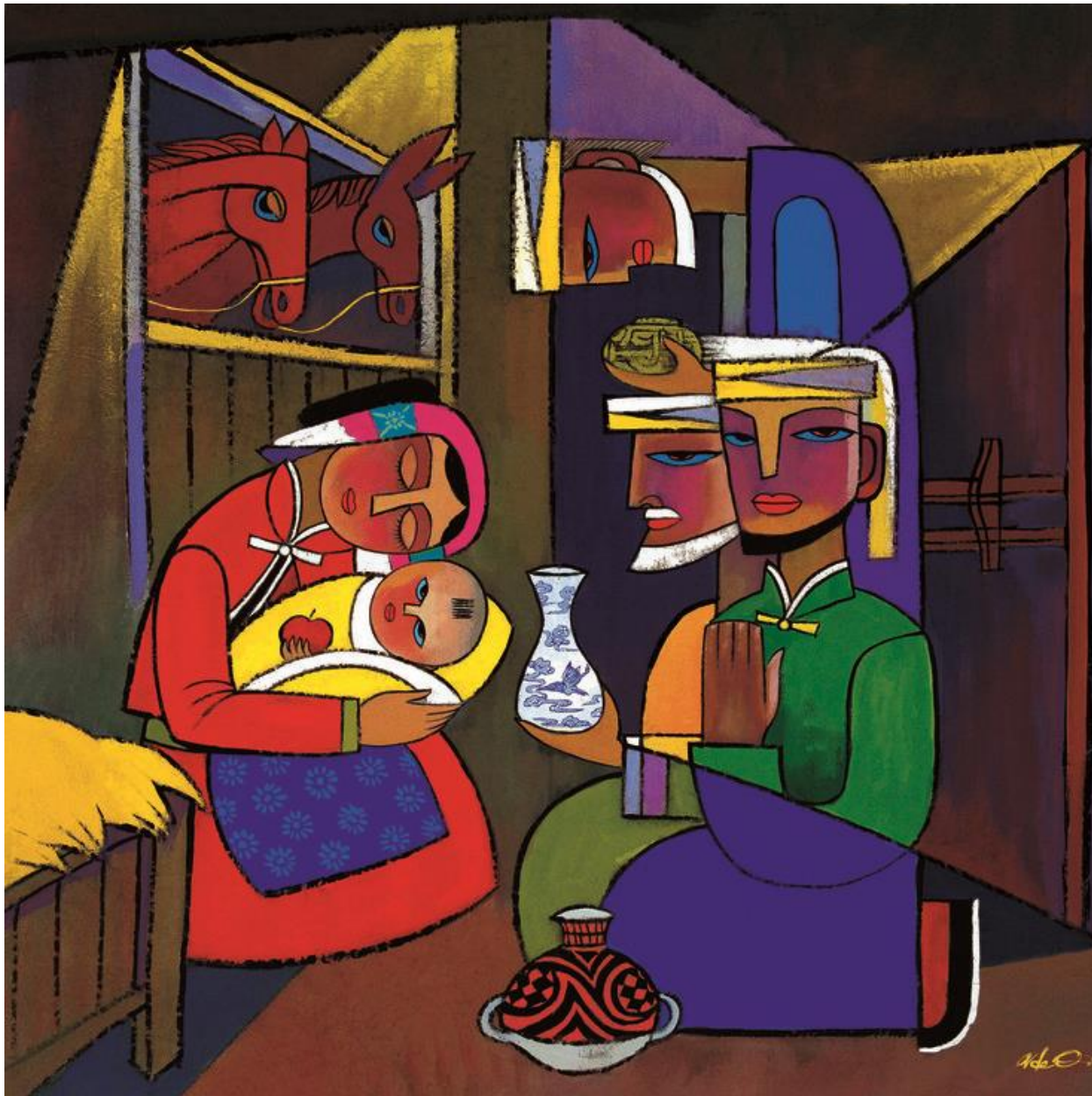
- Matthew 2:1-12 *continued*
 - Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

Epiphany Scriptures

- Matthew 2:1-12 *continued*
 - When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Epiphany Scriptures

- Matthew 2:1-12 *continued*
 - On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



The Magi by He Qi, Chinese Christian Artist, 1999

Albania



In Albania, a priest throws a wooden cross into a freezing lake and men dive in to try to retrieve it.

Albania



Here is the man who retrieved it.

Warsaw, Poland



Volunteers dressed as Three Magi bring their gifts during the Epiphany parade through Warsaw. Poland celebrates Epiphany as an official public holiday.

Baghdad, Iraq



Manila, Philippines



Men on horses dressed as the Three Kings throw candy to children during Epiphany celebrations Sunday along the streets of Manila, Philippines.

Damascus, Syria



Epiphany Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 6, while Catholics and Protestants celebrate. This is from an Orthodox service in Damascus.

Prague, Czech Republic



Men dressed as the Three Kings ride on camels during a procession of the Three Kings at Prague Castle.

Romania



As part of the local Epiphany customs, following the religious service, Romanian villagers get their horses blessed with holy water before competing in a race.

Madrid, Spain



Geese with Christmas baubles tied to their necks are seen during the *Cabalgata de Reyes*, or the Three Wise Men parade in Madrid.

Madrid, Spain



When you go to a parade where they're throwing candy and favors, remember this great idea!

New Orleans, Louisiana



Here in US, Epiphany is celebrated most notably in New Orleans. Many eat a King Cake. Often hidden in the cake is a baby Jesus figurine.

Epiphany Prayer

God of endless light, you sent a star—
rising from darkness,
guiding seekers and sages,
overwhelming us with joy.

Let the splendor of your dawning light
grow in us and in all the world
until the whole creation shines with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our light. Amen!

From the Presbyterian Office of Theology and Worship. Used with Permission.