

# We Three Kings

By John H. Hopkins, Jr.

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*Refrain*

**O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Boys/Men:** Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising all men raising,  
Worship Him, God on high.

**Girls/Women:** Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Sounds through the earth and skies.



**Cover art:** *The Magi Visit the Christchild.*  
Probably of medieval origin.

# The Epiphany of God

See art work on printed copy.

Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises to the fathers, and for the Gentiles to glorify God for his mercy, as it is written....

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people....”

Again Isaiah says,

“There shall come **the root of Jesse**, and he who arises to rule over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope.”

—*from Romans 15:8-12*



*Old Orchard Church*

*January 5, 2014 – 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.*

## *Celebrating the Revelation of Light to the World in the Servant Jesus*

Blessed be Mary's Child,  
This infant obscure,  
For it is he who is drawing together  
One New Humanity in the world,  
The redeemed in every place  
Who trust him and call on his name.

Blessed be God who reveals his Light  
To the Gentile nations lost in their own confusions;  
Blessed be God who defeats the powers of evil  
Raised up to destroy this Child and his offspring.

Thanks be to God that in this Savior-baby,  
The chaos and rebellion of Eden begins to be undone,  
And peace, goodness and joy become possible again.  
Thanks be to God for his indescribable Gift.  
Alleluia!



### *Scripture Readings*

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 2

### *Sermon*

“Paul’s Example in the Kingdom Mission  
of Love and Truth to the City of Man”  
Romans 15

*Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching*

## *The fullness of Time*

**But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son.** (Galatians 4:4)

Why did the incarnation take place when it did—probably by our reckoning in 5 BC, about a year before the death of Herod the Great in 4 BC? Some two thousand years had passed since God called Abraham and promised through his family to bless all the families of the world. Why, then, did such a long time elapse between the promise and its fulfillment? Paul affirmed that God sent his Son **“when the appointed time came”** (Gal. 4:4), but he gave no hint how the appointed time had been fixed.

Many speculations have been made, especially in regard to the socio-political situation at the time, and certainly several circumstances were favorable to the rapid spread and ready reception of the gospel.

Firstly, there was the *pax romana* [the “roman peace”] in the empire. The legions were everywhere, keeping the peace and protecting travelers from brigands on land and pirates at sea. Secondly, Greek was the common language of the empire, and it was immensely helpful to evangelism that the Septuagint (the Old Testament in Greek) was available. Thirdly, there was widespread spiritual hunger. The old gods of Rome had lost their appeal. The mystery religions offered a kind of personal regeneration but were evidence rather of spiritual longings than of their satisfaction. Then there were the so-called God-fearers on the edge of the synagogue, who were attracted by Jewish monotheism and high ethical standards and with whom Paul regularly shared the gospel.

So it was that during a period of only ten years (AD 48-57) Paul saw the church established in the four Roman provinces of Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia, and Asia. He could claim, **“So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ”** (Rom. 15:19). In many ways the time was ripe for world evangelization.

—John Stott, *Through the Bible Through the Year* (2006)

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We celebrate the Lord’s Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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