

– Matthew 2.1-11 –  
Third Sunday of Advent 2016  
**The Star of Bethlehem**

Matthew 2.1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

\* What have people suggested the Star of Bethlehem was?

\* But the Star of Bethlehem did things that ...

\* A real star is like ...

\* Could a real star do the things the Star of Bethlehem did?

\* To solve the mystery, we need to be ...

\* What did they refer to as a "star" in those days? What about us today?

\* Do we find anything in the Bible that was a bright shining light

up in the sky, and that behaved the way the star of Bethlehem did?

\* What was the *shekinah*?

\* What are the *seraphim*?

\* When God led his people out of Egypt, what did they see?

\* Was God's pillar of fire always visible to everyone?

\* What did the pillar of fire do when the tabernacle was complete?

\* What took place at the tabernacle?

\* What did God say about his house?

\* Where was God's house at the time Jesus was born?

\* Where did God lead the Magi?

\* What was God teaching them and us?