

WELCOME Christmas

Welcome Christmas

South Sub Church

December 14, 2025

Joy to the World

Matthew 2:1-12 (NLT)

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” ³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” ⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Sermon Summary:

Welcome Christmas is a five-week Advent journey through Matthew’s telling of Christ’s birth, inviting you to encounter Jesus who fulfills every promise God ever made. Each week opens a new doorway into the wonder of His coming. From a genealogy filled with longing, to a frightened carpenter learning to trust, to outsiders led by a star, to a family protected by God’s unshakeable love, Matthew shows us that Christmas is far more than a story. It’s the arrival of God’s faithfulness in human flesh. Let this season awaken your heart to *welcome Christmas* like never before.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Are you a “follow the GPS exactly” person, or a “figure it out as you go” traveler?
2. If you could follow a “star” to any destination in the world today, where would it lead you?
3. What’s the best or most meaningful gift you’ve ever given someone?
4. If the wise men were visiting today, what modern gift do you think they might bring?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. Who came from the East to Jerusalem after Jesus’ birth?
2. What question did the wise men ask when they arrived in Jerusalem?
3. How did King Herod react when he heard the news about the newborn “king of the Jews”?

South Sub Church 7275 S Broadway, Littleton, CO 80122

<https://www.southsub.church>

WELCOME *Christmas*

4. Whom did Herod ask for help in determining where the Messiah was supposed to be born?
5. Which Old Testament prophecy did they quote about the ruler who would come from Bethlehem?
6. What did Herod ask the wise men when he met with them secretly?
7. What mission did Herod give the wise men, claiming he wanted to do something afterward?
8. After the wise men left Herod, what appeared to them again to guide them?
9. Where did the star lead the wise men, and what was their reaction when they saw it stop?
10. What gifts did the wise men present to Jesus when they entered the house and saw Him with Mary?

Interpretive Questions:

1. Why do you think God chose to reveal Jesus' birth to foreign wise men rather than to Israel's religious leaders?
2. What does the contrast between Herod's fear and the wise men's joy show about different responses to Jesus' kingship?
3. Why might Herod have asked the wise men to "search carefully" for the child, and what does this reveal about his heart?
4. What does God warning the wise men in a dream—rather than allowing them to return to Herod—teach us about God's protection and sovereignty?

Application Questions:

1. Where in your life might you be responding to Jesus more like Herod (protecting control) than like the wise men (welcoming His rule)?
2. How can you cultivate joy—like the wise men—when you recognize God's guidance, even if the journey has been long or difficult?
3. Where might fear, like Herod's, be affecting your spiritual decisions, and how can you surrender those fears to God?
4. How do you sense God protecting or redirecting you lately, and what would it look like to trust His leading more fully?