

The Gift

Sunday
December 5, 2021

First Covenant
Church

Sermon Notes

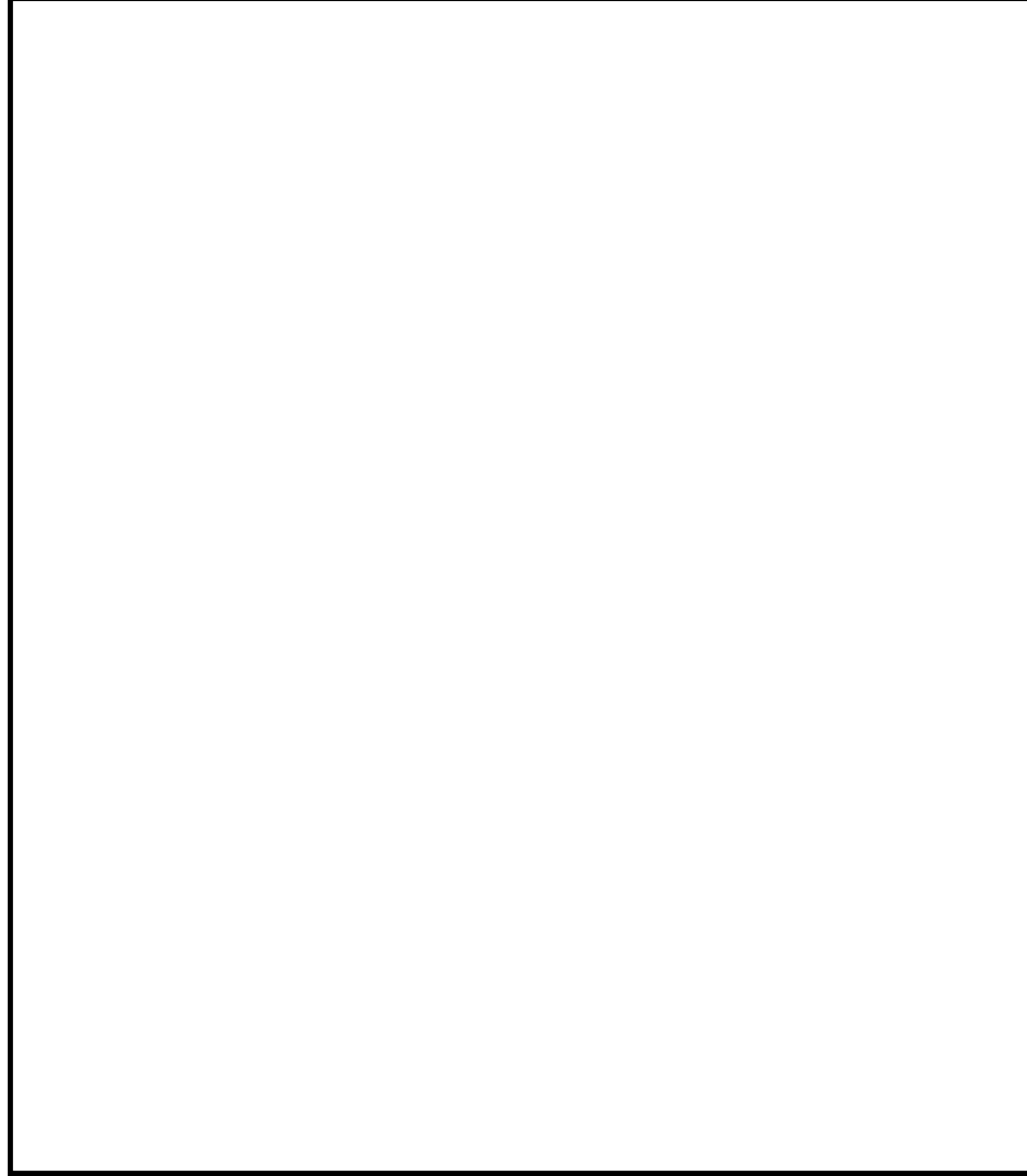


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Go Deeper . . .

Use these questions for further study individually or in a small group

Read Matthew 2:1-12

As pagan Gentile astrologers and magicians, the Magi seem like the least likely people to hear God and seek the Jewish Messiah. Nonetheless, God reaches out to them through creation and the magi faithfully respond in worship and obedience while the “more religious” Jews do not.

- What does this teach us about how God works?
- What does this teach us about Jesus’ mission in the world?
- What caution might this hold for us as Christians?

Is the idea of Jesus as King something new to you? Do you tend to view Jesus primarily as Savior or also as King and Ruler? What does it mean for Jesus to be King not just of Heaven but also of Earth?

What does it practically mean for Jesus to be King of. . .

- . . . your personal life?
- . . . your work life?
- . . . your family life?
- . . . your political life?
- . . . your thought life?
- . . . your emotional life?
- . . . your relational life?
- . . . your financial life?
- . . . Everything?

Remember the contrast of Jesus and Herod. Now consider the leaders, rulers, and influences you tend to follow (politicians, media figures, business leaders, sports personalities, authors, entertainers, etc.). Do their characteristics and lives more closely resemble the kingship of Herod or of Jesus? How will you take steps of decreasing the influence of “Herods” and increasing that of Jesus?

Advent Resources:

Advent Children’s Devotional: www.awana.org/?#

Advent Arts Project Calendar: cca.biola.edu/advent/2021/

Music: *Advent Songs* by The Porter’s Gate; *Hymns II* by Poor Bishop Harper

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