

A GREAT PLAINS UMC

WEEK OF
FAITHFUL
WITNESS

JANUARY 4-10, 2026

AN INVITATION TO
LOVE BOLDLY. SERVE FAITHFULLY. LEAD COURAGEOUSLY.



✦ 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.'

✦ MATTHEW 2:1-12

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. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

✦ MATTHEW 2:1-12

“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.”

✦ MATTHEW 2:1-12

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.'

✦ MATTHEW 2:1-12

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. On entering the house,

✧✧ MATTHEW 2:1-12

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.

✦✦ JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,^{*} and the life was the light of all people.

✦✦ JOHN 1:1-18

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

★ JOHN 1:1-18

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own,* and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

JOHN 1:1-18

who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,* full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said,

★ JOHN 1:1-18

“He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,* who is close to the Father’s heart,* who has made him known.