

Planning



Sunday, January 1 – Saturday, January 7 • 2023

New Epiphanies

We move into Christmastide with the wise ones following the star that will stop over the Christ Child and cause us to wonder what has changed.

This week...

Ecumenical prayer calendar

Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Lebanon

As listed in *Pilgrim Prayer: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, edited by Ester Pudjo Widiastih and Karen L. Bloomquist. (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2018). <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle> offers valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

Special days (commentary on p. 100)

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 1 – Name of Jesus/Holy Family Day

January 5 – Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji (*Sikhism*)

January 6 – Epiphany

Personal reflection

There is so much that we don't understand. We struggle for words but so much remains mysterious and unknown. It feels right to make more room for mystery, as Paul encourages, in this week where we might be tempted to claim all that we know about who or what Christ is.

- **Find yourself outside in a place where you can wordlessly contemplate the stars without even the disruption of city lights.**
- **Dabble in paint, dance, or clay to find what is beyond words and still full of meaning.**

The planning page is provided in text format for copying, adapting, and adding to your bulletin or online worship resources or website or social media (see Text folder, Worship Outline).

January 1, 2023

Christmas 1

Revised Common Lectionary (Year A)

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

the focus in age-level materials

Liturgical colour white

Notes

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Online Resources

Lection Connection

Essays and discussion prompts linking current events with this week's scriptures. Use for sermon preparation, Bible studies, and small groups or share on social media at <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/10/>

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

An easy-to-share, weekly online resource supports the spiritual lives and faith formation of individuals and families at home. It is provided in the [Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home](#) folder.





Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

the focus in age-level materials

We praise you, Holy One, for stars in the heavens above and extraordinary wonders here on earth. We give thanks for the words you give us to dream of what could be. Amen.

New Epiphanies

The dictionary defines epiphany as “a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization.” The wise ones followed the star from its rising until it stopped. That was their epiphany, but epiphanies are not always so. The other readings this week stir us to hope and even dream. On this last Sunday of Christmas, we stop with the wise ones to wonder what this birth has revealed.

On returning home to Jerusalem, the people in **Isaiah 60:1–6** discover that this once great city is destroyed. People live among the ruins, including peasants and people from other lands such as Samaria. The prophet speaks to offer words of hope into this context of a ruined land, and reflects that the dispersed people will re-gather in the future. There will be joy, and people will bring gifts and praise to God. The hope is in this aspiration, but we should be cautious with our metaphors, especially when it comes to dark and light. It is too simple to equate darkness with evil and despair and light with joy and goodness; such comparisons have unhelpful racial connotations. A broader focus on the vision of life and renewal is a helpful direction.

A vision of life restored is also proclaimed in **Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14**. Here, the writer declares that there will be justice for poor and oppressed people. There will be liberation and care for people on the margins, and the monarch will reign with justice – hope for the people.

It is not clear who are the wise ones in **Matthew 2:1–12**. They may have been kings or astronomers, while some biblical translations note that they are magi. In Greek, “magi” means

Zoroastrian priests or followers of that religion. Nor is it clear how many people came, or their gender, but we can be reasonably certain they came from a different country, have access to wealth (because of the expensive gifts), and travel to honour and pay respect to Jesus.

Biblical scholar Eliseo Pérez-Álvarez indicates that their wisdom came from dreams. Herod, too, got his hunch about these travellers from dreams. Herod was wealthy and powerful, was considered an enemy of the Jews, and was paranoid about any potential threat to him presiding on the throne – an obsession that leads him to eventually order the death of all children born in and around Bethlehem. Pérez-Álvarez muses that the wise ones “didn’t pay attention to Herod’s insinuation.” They didn’t bring him word. Perhaps their dreams told them not to. Or perhaps these wise ones “opted for gospel obedience...like Peter (and us), [they] have a higher loyalty: ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority’” (Acts 5:29).

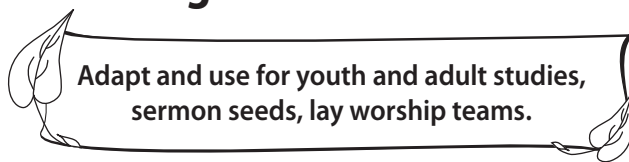
We might not remember our dreams or question every authority, so it might help to hear Paul’s wisdom to the Gentiles in **Ephesians 3:1–12**. His message is simple: be open to mystery.

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We might think we know a lot of things. We might hope for even more, but God reveals new mysteries all the time. We only have to be open to new epiphanies. What is God revealing right now? How do you embrace mystery in your everyday life?



Reflecting on the Word



Connecting with life

For most of us, mysteries are page-turning novels rather than probing questions that we carry through our days. We would like to know how it ends and take our best guesses even as the thing unfolds.

- **Practice sitting in silence for five minutes each morning this week. Do this for no other reason but to connect with the mystery of God.**

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1–6 uses light imagery to describe glory and goodness and dark imagery to describe times of difficulty and despair. Light and dark imagery can have strong racial connotations and negatively impacts people with darker skin.

- **How else could light be described?**
- **How might darkness be described to lift up its positive nature?**

Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14 offers a vision of justice for oppressed and marginalized people.

- **How might a person of power, privilege, and prestige experience the notion that the oppressor will be crushed?**
- **How might a person who lives in poverty or on the margins of society experience the notion that rulers will defend and bring about righteousness and justice?**
- **Do you experience this text as a promise still to come or as a promise unfulfilled? Or both?**

Ephesians 3:1–12 describes the mystery of Christ and points to God's purpose.

- **What is the purpose of God, according to this passage?**
- **Where do you see a reason to hope in this passage?**

Matthew 2:1–12 illustrates what dreams can do for better or worse.

- **Do you remember your dreams? Has a dream ever stirred you to take a risk?**
- **When is it important to listen to your dreams? When do you ignore their guidance?**
- **When have you shared a dream or vision with others, like the wise ones shared this dream? Or when has someone shared a dream of vision with you? What was your response?**

The American inventor and founding father of the American Empire, Benjamin Franklin, once said, "It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority."

- **How might the citizens of the Roman Empire, living under such rulers as Herod, react to this statement?**
- **Is authority ever granted without question to political leaders in your nation? in your locality? in your congregation?**
- **When is it important to question authority figures?**

Epiphany, formally celebrated on January 6, marks the end of the Christmas season. It is the day when we celebrate Jesus' identity being revealed to the wise ones who followed the star to find Jesus. Matthew's gospel tells that Jesus was a small child when the wise ones found him, which implies that their quest was a long one – a journey of hope.

- **What has taken you a long time to find?**
- **What motivates you to continue the search?**

Connecting scripture and life

This coming week, you are invited to keep a dream journal. Keep a notebook and pen by your bedside and write down anything you might remember before you put your feet on the floor.

- **What do you notice about your dreams?**
- **What new epiphany is being revealed?**

Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

What do we take into the new year? Each newborn child is reliant on others to care, protect, and love them into their best selves, the child Jesus is no different. Just as a child is reliant on its community, Jesus' dream for a better world is reliant on all of his followers. We are all needed to help,

care, protect, and love what God birthed in Jesus.

How might your community nurture and care for the dreams of Jesus? How interconnected is your community? How do you depend and rely on each other?

New Epiphanies

Prepare

NOTE: The following suggestions are mere starting points. You are invited to adapt, delete, add according to your local needs and context. If a community is gathered in person, they may speak the **bolded** lines. If worshippers are not physically present, consider having a different individual say the bolded responses. Instructions are *italicized*.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing Matthew 2:1–12. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller to present “[Gifts for Jesus](#)” on p. 102. Alternatively, for younger children, arrange for a storyteller to present “[The Magi Visit Jesus](#)” in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week’s materials.
- ❑ Print [stars and star words](#) (see #2 – Overview and Planning folder). Arrange them on the communion table face down. See the article “[Guiding Stars – Star Words for the Year](#)” for further information on star words on page 101.
- ❑ You might choose to print [Earth Has Hope](#) on or in your bulletin. See “[Connecting with the Art](#)” on p. 8 for the background to the art and artist.
- ❑ Bring song such as “Celebrate Emmanuel” (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 7, #10 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 7. Printed music and recording are also available www.seasonsonline.ca/order).
- ❑ Set [stations](#) as described on pp. 103–104.



Music Suggestions

Cosmic Hymn of Praise

Michael Mangan; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9

Jesus, Face of God

James Maher; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9

May Peace Be with You/*Salamun, Kullaheen*

Traditional Latin America; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8

Celebrate Emmanuel

David MacGregor; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 7

Jesus Came Bringing Us

Traditional Cameroon; *Seasons Songbook* vol. 3

I Am the Light of the World

Jim Strathdee

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

This Little Light of Mine

African-American spiritual



A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at www.seasonsonline.ca. Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

Gather

Call to worship

Based on Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for the light has come.

Light radiates.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

See how light shines here in your sons and daughters.

Light reflects the glory of God.

Look around.

Our hearts thrill and rejoice.

God is here again.

Opening prayer

Holy Mystery, you twinkle and shimmer

like the stars in the heavens above,

and it feels like anything could happen.

We pause here with you, O Mystery,

to contemplate the stars

and to wonder what brought us here

to this moment, this time, this place.

Guide us with words that would give us meaning.

Show us how your light reflects

the truth of who we hope to be.

There is so much possibility.

Orient us with your radiance. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Epiphanies alter our path.

New understanding shifts our direction,

but too often we think that nothing extraordinary ever

happens.

Forgive us.

Too often, we fail to notice your revelation.

Forgive us.



Worship Outline • January 1, 2023

Too often, we miss the amazing ways you become manifest.

Forgive us.

Too often, we ignore the guiding lights you have sent to
intercede.

Forgive us.

Silence is kept.

Words of affirmation

The extraordinary wonder is that God loves us.

God sends another beacon and then another until it stops
and becomes the epiphany we need.

God's grace and love is without end. Amen.

Engage

Opening the word

Isaiah 60:1–6 challenges us to see how we are reflections of God's light and share that light with others. We can practice this in our worship before we go out in service to the world. Invite the young and old to consider why we might choose angels or stars to adorn our Christmas trees. Invite them to listen for how Isaiah talks about the light and what it might mean for us today.

Matthew 2:1–12 the focus scripture for age-level materials in **ENCORE**

Arrange for a storyteller to present "[Gifts for Jesus](#)" on p. 102. Alternatively, for younger children, tell the story "[The Magi Visit Jesus](#)" (in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week's materials).

Star words

See "[Guiding Stars – Star Words for the Year](#)" (p. 101) for background and intent of these words. Additional insight and materials can be found at RevGalsBlogPals (<https://revgalblogpals.org/star-words/>). The introduction connects the Bible story or drama and this star words ritual.

Introduction The wise ones were led by a special star. They kept following the star and wondering where it would lead them. We know that it eventually led them to the Christ child. It was the light of the star. Like the wise ones, on this Epiphany Sunday, we come looking for light.

Today, you will receive a star word. On this printed star is a word that will lead you through the year. These star words have been prayed over and created with such love and care in faith that God will bring together the right word with the right person. In a few moments, the stars will align, and we will invite you to come forward and choose your star without

knowing exactly where it will lead. May you be surprised by extraordinary things as this special star word leads you to exactly where you need to be.

Invite the congregation to move forward and claim a star that has been placed face down on the Communion table as music plays. (Star words are provided in the #2 – Overview and Planning folder.) When all are seated with their star words, say:

When extraordinary things happen in the sky, we stop and notice. We look for comets, shooting stars, full moons. We watch for rocket launches, satellites drifting in space, and the space station circling our orbit. The magi were paying close attention to the sky when they saw something different – a star that shone so brightly they were compelled to follow it. Just as the Christmas star once shined for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people. May we use these star words as reminders of the Christmas star we invite into our lives so that we might be led toward Jesus the Christ.

We are seekers – just like the magi.

Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

We look for hope, peace, joy, love, and all that Christ brings.

Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

We long for the abundant life God promises.

Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

May this star word be one of encouragement.

Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

May this word guide our intentions in the days to come.

Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

May we pay attention to where God is present.

Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

May God use these words to show us how to live and love in the world.

Light our paths and lead us closer to you. Amen.

Liturgy by Courtney Mills Jones Willis, 2020

**If gathering in person, invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations.
Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word. For those participating at home,
you might encourage them to use materials that have been sent.**

If star words were offered in worship, you might set stations as described in "Star wondering" on the [Stations](#) page (p. 104) and invite people to use the art supplies provided to embellish their stars.

If star words are not chosen, there are alternate suggestions for both the prayers of the people and the prayer of dedication.



Respond

Sing or listen to a song such as “Celebrate Emmanuel” as people gather again (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 7, #10 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 7. Printed music and recording are also available at www.seasonsonline.ca/order).

Prayers of the people

Based on Ephesians 3:1–12

God who created all things,
we are still learning new wonders
about you and your love.

We rejoice in the countless ways
you urge us forward into endless possibilities.

Still, O God, there is so much
that we cannot understand
about this world.

There is so much
death...
disease...

oppression...
corruption...
hatred...
apathy...

It is too much
and so we are never quite
sure that we understand
your plan of mystery.

We pray for revelation
relying on each other
and your great wisdom,
as we pray in the way of Christ, praying...

Prayer of dedication or offering prayer

Bless these gifts, O God,
and bless our hands in the work of
your realm of peace, love, and justice.
Amen.

Bless

May the God of surprises bless you,
may the Christ of possibilities keep you,

and may the Spirit of new pathways hold you,
now and always.
Amen.

Special Days Commentary

January 1 – Name of Jesus/Holy Family Day

While some would not consider the first day of the year as anything other than a civic holiday, some churches do acknowledge it liturgically, and the *Revised Common Lectionary* provides readings for the New Year.

Some traditions observe this day as the Holy Name of Jesus, while others refer to it as Holy Family Day. The first recalls the circumcision and naming of Jesus when he was eight days old, as recorded in Luke 2:21. The latter refers to the account of Mary and Joseph’s presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple when he was 33 days old, in accordance with the Law of Moses. This story, recorded in Luke 2:2–4, relates how the prophets Simeon and Anna rejoiced at the sight of the baby with the knowledge and understanding that the Messiah had finally come.

January 5 – Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (*Sikhism*)

Under Guru Gobind Singh the Sikh followers were initiated as the *Khalsa*, meaning “the Pure Ones.” The *Khalsa* were exhorted to dress in white, live monogamous and righteous

lives, and not cut their hair, as doing so would change the image of God in which they were created. Before dying in 1708, Guru Gobind Singh passed guruship on to the Sikh Scriptures, the Siri Guru Granth Sahib. Since that time, Sikhs have bowed to this scripture and considered it as their only guru.

January 6 – Epiphany

On this 12th day after Christmas, the church remembers the visit of the magi to the Christ child.

According to the gospel of Matthew, sages from the East came to Jerusalem seeking the child. They had observed a new star rising and followed it to find the newborn king of the Jews. The word epiphany means “manifestation” or “sudden appearing.” During the Season after the Epiphany, which lasts from January 6 until the beginning of Lent, the church focuses on making Christ known to the world, reading stories of call, prophecy, and discipleship. Many churches observe the feast of the Epiphany on the Sunday prior, which this year is January 1.



Guiding Stars – Star Words for the Year

In Epiphany, we tell the story of the wise ones following the star to find the place where the Christ Child was born.

“Star words” first appeared in a 2009 article written by Susan Foster in the publication *Reformed Worship*¹.

In North America, PC(USA) Pastor Marci Auld Glass blogged about her congregation’s experiences, and the idea began to spread among church communities² inviting people of all ages to claim a word to define the year ahead. These words were written or printed on stars and distributed to the congregation during worship.

Worshippers do not select the words for themselves, but the individual who assembles the stars is encouraged to pray as they work that God would give each recipient the word that they may find meaningful or useful for the year ahead. In one congregation, the stars are described as God’s offering to us and given when the offering plates are passed. In the prayer of dedication, we dedicate our gifts to God and give thanks for our gifts from God.

How is this different from the recent trend of choosing a word outside the church setting for the year? In this case, the practice may seem “gimmicky” or trendy, but the stars and the words make a difference for recipients. One man received the word “evangelism,” which prompted him to

consider how he shares the good news in his life. A mother received “flexibility,” which encouraged her as she raised her children. “Discipline” inspired a runner as she strove to get stronger. She also became more disciplined in her prayer practices by beginning each run with a prayer. This was a new practice to her. A worship committee chair received the word “craft” and is still wrestling to see what God has in store for the year to come.

One of the gifts of these star words is being in the congregation when they are distributed and after. Members share their words at the door and with one another. Many are excited to see what they received so that this practice of shared faith might be shared in conversation in the weeks following the distribution of star words.

These words are not intended to replace the word of God in ordering our lives or be seen as magical. They are designed to offer a lens to guide us to see other roads in our faith journeys. The hope is that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, God will be at work in each individual through their word, helping to experience Christ in new ways for the year. Following the star leads us to expected places – just as the wise ones did not expect to find a baby, we may not expect what we find when we follow our stars.

Beginning

Begin your conversation with wonder. Share the surprise you found in your word and the first thoughts that came to mind when considering this star word.

Exploring

Deepen your shared conversation with these questions:

- **How long did it take you to look up your word in the dictionary? Did this new insight change your understanding?**
- **Are there synonyms for your word that add meaning for you?**
- **What do you hope to learn from this word?**
- **How does this word feel like a gift?**
- **How has this word sent you ‘home by another way’ like the magi? Has it changed your experience already? Do you see that possibility?**
- **What might God be saying to you through this word?**
- **What scripture passage(s) or stories does your word bring to mind?**

Shared Blessing

Conclude your time together by going around the room and sharing one thing that each person heard that felt like a blessing. When all have shared, let the people say Amen.

Adapted from Jo Owen’s Epiphany Stars
(<https://vibrantchurchcommunications.com/epiphany-stars-1>).
Used by permission.

¹ <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-2009/star-gifts>

² <https://revgalblogpals.org/star-words/>



Gifts for Jesus

Based Matthew 2:1–12

The magi, the wise people of their lands, saw the star in the night sky. They knew it was an important sign that the child of God had been born and that they needed to go and visit and worship the child.

But they wondered exactly where the child was. They went to the ruler of the land, Herod by name, and asked him where they could find the child. Herod sent for all his advisers, the priests, and the scribes who wrote down all the important things about the rules of the land. They told Herod that the prophets from long ago mentioned that the new ruler sent from God would be born in the little town of Bethlehem in a part of the country called Judea.

They also said that the child would become like a shepherd and take care of God's people. Herod wanted to know exactly when the star had shown up in the sky and brought in the magi and asked them.

Herod told the magi to go to Bethlehem and look everywhere for the child. Herod also told them to send a message when they found the child. Herod explained that he wanted to go and worship the child, too. Herod was jealous though, and might have been planning to hurt the child to prevent it from becoming the land's new ruler.

After Herod talked to the magi, they left and saw the star moving in the night sky. They followed it until it stopped. They saw a small house there and were very happy to have finally found the right place. They went in and saw Mary and the child; they bowed down and worshipped and gave the child special gifts. The gifts were gold and expensive oils and perfumes.

That night a dream warned that they shouldn't go back to Herod, but they should return home a different way. That way, Herod wouldn't know exactly where the child was.

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.



Bible story

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Recording of today's story "[Gifts for Jesus](#)"
- Alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story
- Player
- Paper or drawing pads

The practice of storytelling

Directions

1. Choose a character from the story "Gifts for Jesus": King Herod, the magi, the star, the child, Mary.
2. As you listen to the story, imagine what it would be like to be your character.
3. Talk with others about your character. Some questions to get you started:
 - **What are you feeling? Are you excited or hesitant? Are you anxious or confident?**
 - **What are you discovering?**
 - **What are you helping others to discover?**
 - **How do you relate to the other characters?**
 - **What questions do you have?**
4. Use the art supplies to write or draw your response to the story.



Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space, or in other places around the church, in your home, or outdoors. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the [directions](#) for all to see onscreen or in person. Adapt stations for use when physically distancing and above all, follow the safe practices of your congregation and local health officials.

For your convenience, directions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.

Health and Safety Practices

Basic supplies pens, pencils, markers, crayons, white glue/glue sticks, scissors, hand sanitizer, wipes placed in a basket or bin, two containers marked "clean" and "used"

Setting the space Utilize large spaces where people can maintain a safe physical distance. Spread out chairs around a large table or use tape to mark off the space around stand alone chairs.

Keep it clean Wipe down and disinfect places used for stations. Provide enough arts and crafts supplies to reduce sharing and mark containers "clean" and "used." Remind people to use hand sanitizer as they begin and as they end stations.

Star hunt

Materials

- Hide several stars around your space (see "[Star Pattern](#)" on p. 11)
- A long stretch of black or deep blue mural paper or wrapping paper displayed on the floor or the wall
- Glue or sticky tape
- Hand sanitizer or wipes



Suitable for
all ages

The practice of seeking

Directions

A star led the magi to the child Jesus revealing where he had been born. Their encounter with Jesus changed them and re-oriented them to another way.

1. Hunt for the stars hidden around the room.
2. Return to the station and write a word or a phrase that describes how your relationship with Jesus has changed, re-oriented, or changed you.
3. Glue or tape it to the night sky, filling it with stars that reveal how Christ is present in our lives.

Star garland

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Construction paper
- Star template (see "[Star Pattern](#)" on p. 11)
- Non-toxic paint
- Hand sanitizer or wipes



Suitable for all ages
working together

The practice of creativity

Directions

The star led the wise ones to the newborn Jesus, and they were overwhelmed with joy. Contemplate these mysteries as you work together to make a garland for your worship space for the Season after Epiphany.

1. Paint on the paper in any way you like.
2. As your paint dries, wonder to yourself or others:
 - **Does it ever feel like stars are leading you?**
 - **We sing in a carol about a star of wonder. What makes you wonder about the stars?**
 - **Do you remember the words to that carol?**
3. Once dry, use the star pattern to trace and cut out a star shape.
4. Add your star to the garland with tape on the back (unpainted) side.
5. Give thanks for stars.



Light catchers

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Clear adhesive covering cut into 20 cm/8 in squares
- Permanent markers
- Tissue paper (torn)
- Templates of stars ("[Star Pattern](#)" on p. 11)



**Suitable for all ages
working together**

The practice of creativity

Setting the space

Spread out the squares of adhesive covering, and place star templates that can be traced, bowls with torn tissue paper, and other materials on a table.

Directions

God's light shines through everyone. How does God's light shine through you? Light catchers can remind us of the ways God's light shines through us.

1. Trace a star onto one square of the adhesive covering using a permanent marker. Be careful to trace it on the clear "plastic" covering and not the protective paper.
2. Peel away the protective sheet and place the piece of adhesive covering on a hard surface with the sticky side facing up.
3. Fill in your design with the torn pieces of tissue paper.
4. Take a second square of adhesive covering, peel away the protective paper and layer it over your first square, sticky sides together.
5. Cut out your design.
6. Fix it to a window and let the light shine through!

Option If you're feeling creative, draw your own Epiphany design.

Star wondering

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Gems
- Yarn
- Pom poms

This station is intended to be used with the star words ritual moment in worship.



**Suitable for
all ages**

The practice of wonder

Directions

Star words are designed to offer a lens to guide us to see other roads in our faith journeys. What might you find as the journey begins? Use the star word you were given in worship.

1. Using the art supplies provided, embellish your star with decoration.
2. As you decorate, wonder:

- **What might this word teach me this year?**
- **How does this word challenge me?**
- **Where does this word give me hope?**

The article "[Connecting with the Art](#)" on page 8 provides background to this season's posters and art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might add an Art station and select one of the art engagement ideas.



Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

The Magi Visit Jesus

A story based on Matthew 2:1–12

A long time ago, some wise people called magi were looking at the stars.

“Look,” said one magi, “there is a star I’ve never seen before.”

“It’s so bright, it almost makes the other stars seem dim,” said another.

“I think the stars are showing us that someone special has been born. Let’s find out who that is.

Let’s follow the light of that star. Then we might find this child,” said the third magi.

And so the wise magi gathered together the most special gifts they could find. First, they chose bright, shining gold. Then they chose some frankincense. It smelled wonderful – spicy and fragrant. Finally, they chose some myrrh – a wonderful sweet-smelling lotion.

The magi packed up the gifts.

They packed up some food, and water and other supplies. They rested during the daytime. They travelled during the nighttime.

When the sun went down and the stars came out, that’s when they could see the bright star pointing the

way. For many days, the magi rested. For many nights, they followed the bright star.

Finally, the magi arrived in Jerusalem. They went to the palace of King Herod and said, “The stars tell us about a special child. Do you know where we can find this child?”

King Herod was worried. He was worried this special child might try to be king instead of him.

He told the magi, “My helpers tell me that the child is in Bethlehem. After you have found him, come and tell me where. Then I will go and visit too.”

The magi set out again and followed the star. Soon it stopped over a house. There they found Mary and Joseph and the child Jesus. The magi rejoiced that they had found the child. They knelt down and gave their gifts: the gold, the frankincense, and the myrrh.

When the magi lay down to sleep that night, they had a dream. The dream told them not to tell King Herod where Jesus was. So the next morning, they went home a different way.

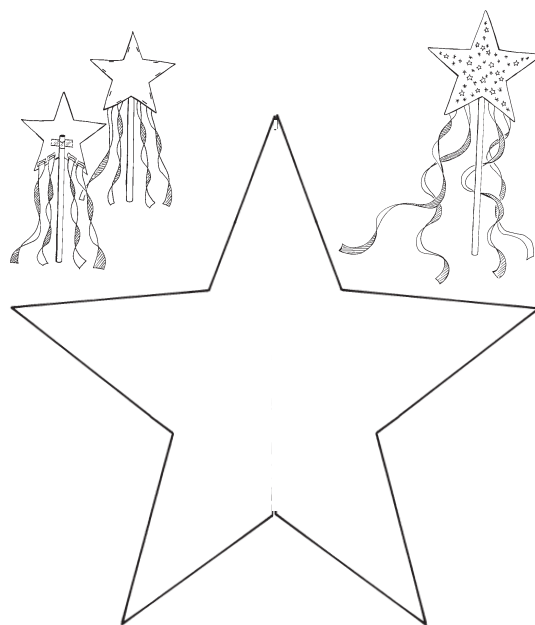
Epiphany Star Streamers

A star led the magi to Jesus. Carry the star high and invite others to follow.

You will need poster board, star pattern, scissors, dowel and chopstick, crepe paper streamers, tape, stapler, star stickers.

Instructions

- Using the pattern, cut two stars from poster board.
- Tape streamers and dowel or chopstick to one side of the posterboard. Tape or staple both stars together (see illustration).
- Decorate with small star stickers.



A bright, shining star led the magi to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Decorate the star with different markers and pencils.

