**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

December 11, 2022

Brian Hummel, ExecutivePastor

**Hope is Born**

**Seeking Hope**

**Matthew 2:1-12**



God fulfilled His **promise** generation by generation.

The miraculous birth makes **hope** possible.

Wise men and women **seek** and worship the One who is our Hope.

*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, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “ ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”*

*Matthew 2:1-8*

God will use all different ways to **reveal** Himself, but all ways lead to God.

*“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.*

*Job 12:7-10*

*For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

*Romans 1:19-20*

We search for our **purpose**, but our purpose can only be found in God.

*Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity… The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

*Ecclesiastes 12:8&13*

We search for **happiness**, but our joy can only be found in God.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

*Romans 15:13*

We search for **truth**, but the truth is only found in God.

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

*John 14:6*

Knowledge of God is completely different than **knowing** God.

*and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*Ephesians 3:19*

Wise men and women seek and **worship** the One who is our Hope.

*After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.*

Matthew 2:9-12

**Worship** Jesus as King, Lord, and Lamb.

Worship God with **all** that we are, have, and do.

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

Worship God with a life that **spreads** the good news.

*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing…*

*2 Corinthians 2:14-15a*

Worship God as those who have been **set apart.**

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

1 Peter 2:9

In this Advent Season, because of the Hope we have in Christ Jesus, make an intentional choice to worship.