

AN
AM  UNEXPECTED MAGI
CHRISTMAS

WEEK 3
AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS

e-piph-a-ny / i-'pi-fə-nē / noun

1. the manifestation of Christ to the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)
2. an illuminating discovery

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem... are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Matthew 2:3-6

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." Matthew 2:7-8

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Matthew 2:9-12

This story invites us to see...

1. The _____ in the Magi

"I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.'" Hosea 2:23b

2. The _____ in Herod and company

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7-8

- The result is either _____ or _____ to Jesus.

3. The _____ in the Christ child

"...and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:23b

Ask: _____?