

## 01-02-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Everyone who happens to worship on Epiphany has their own idiosyncratic story to tell of their pathway to the manger...Nevertheless, all are present due to the prompting of God, who initiates our asking, our seeking, and our finding.”

- *Stephen Bauman*



Matthew 2:1-12

### Questions for Reflection —

- As you enter the new year what fears, controversies, disappointments, and pain need to be left behind? What do you need to surrender in order to move into this new year with compassion, kindness, patience, love, and grace? How can you turn those things over to God? What desires, decisions, and dreams are you carrying forth in the new year? What will enable you to live into them? What is God already making new in your life? In the life of our congregation?
  
- In what ways are you walking in God’s light? What does it look like for you to be a bearer of light? How do you share the light of God’s love with those you encounter—family, friends, coworkers, strangers? What would it mean for us to be a congregation of light-bearers? How can we shine God’s light and love into the dark corners of our communities and our world?
  
- What is the story of your pathway to the manger this year? What did you find there? What is the gift you would like to offer Jesus? What does it mean for you to seek God in your life? What spiritual practices might aid you in your search for deeper relationship with God? By what “other road” might God be inviting you to travel as you return to daily life following the Christmas season?

### Daily Household Prayer

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.