



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer

Epiphany of our Lord

A New Path

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." 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. 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."

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, 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. Mathew 2:1-12

As we enter into a new year, I question what 2019 could be like if we listen to the messages that are sent to us from God. King Herod was frightened by the birth of Jesus. Then, King Herod secretly questioned the wise men for the whereabouts of Jesus. However, the wise men heard a message from God and decided to take another path. This text is relatable to what is happening across the world today. There are so many secrets and hidden agendas. Everyone wants to be king or queen and the real work that needs to happen is held back while children are suffering and dying. The goal is to cherish all God's children and to do so we might have to try a new path in 2019.

Lord I pray that more people in 2019 will choose a different path which will lead them free of sexual exploitation. I also pray that the people will hear your message and they will trust in you Lord. I pray communities will come together to learn and listen from one another. Lord I pray for healing of the body, mind and soul of those who are harming our children. This year Lord I pray a renewal of strength for those on the front line fighting to end sex trafficking. I pray for Cherish all Children and our new endeavors. Amen.

Today's Wednesday Prayer was written by Monica Jones, Cherish All Children Prevention Coordinator, and also a Senior Community Health Worker for Hennepin County, MN.