



Heartbeats along the way: The Epiphany Heart

Matthew 2:10-11a: "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."

This Sunday, January 6, is Epiphany Sunday, signifying the appearance of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi. Epiphany is a moment of sudden realization or revelation that dramatically changes oneself. We read this in Matthew's story of the Magi and their journey.

I believe the Magi had more than one Epiphany. The first was when they discovered the astronomical event that drew them to ancient writings. The second was when they appeared in Jerusalem and discovered no one in the land of the Jews had a single clue of what was happening, although the Jewish leaders and intellectuals finally found an obscure verse in a minor prophet that pointed like a laser at Bethlehem. The third was when the star reappeared and the Magi found themselves face to face with Mary and the babe in Bethlehem. Their reaction was to fall down and worship. How did they feel, do you think? Their persistence was rewarded, but not at all like they probably imagined when they set off. They were seeking a royal celebration appropriate for a kingly birth. That led them to the fourth and greatest epiphany: instead of an earthly king in a mansion with the pomp and trappings of other rulers, they discovered the King of the Universe (who commanded the stars to announce his birth), a little child with his earth mother in a humble dwelling, a far cry from Herod's palace. And they recognized at once that their gifts were very important for the future of this Holy Family. Think on this awhile this week.

"O God, may our hearts always be open to the Epiphanies you present to us as we build our new Spring Garden Campus. Amen"

~cl reynolds