



It's Epiphany, the time of year when the church remembers how the Magi, the wise men, went to visit the Christ Child and brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We get so focused on those gifts though that we forget the really important part of the story, which is the end of the story.

The magi were sent to find the Christ child by Herod, the same Herod who was so threatened by Jesus that he wants to make sure he is killed. But the wise men, the wise men see God in Jesus; see that love and justice are breaking into the world. And so, the Magi refuse a direct order from Herod. They return to their own country on another road. They spend, I am sure, the rest of their lives on the run.

And so, as we begin the year 2022, I invite you to think with me about what new roads we might need to go down. 2021 was, in so many ways, a terrible year. We saw so much death and so much destruction. The opioid crisis, COVID, the unmarked graves at residential schools, fires, floods. The world is quite literally crying out for us to find new ways, new roads.

And as our story today reminds us, there are things we are going to have to give up, there are orders we are going to have to disobey. For the rulers and the empires are always so preoccupied with power that they end up on this road to death and destruction. And we are called instead to follow the Prince of Peace on the road of love, the road of justice, the road of compassion and healing.

And so, let's begin 2022 on that road. Let's give up the roads that lead only to death, that lead only to Herod, and let's leave on another road—the road that leads to life. For God came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

Blessings for 2022.

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