

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**January 6, 2026**

**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**In This Kind of Time**

Make no mistake: The world with the guiding star from the east, where covert seekers of signs traveled by night vision, desperate to find a child king, was not a mockup for mantelpiece arrangements swaddled in soft light; not a trio of characters auditioning for some future, twinkling-light Christmas pageant or a living-nativity reenactment. That world was a troubled world, a desperate world, an unfair and brutal world, where wealth bought power, and where ruthlessness and fear danced a deadly tango. It was a world under empire; a world choked by Herod; a world of injustice and occupation, threats and massacre, of fragile hope and cementing anger.

In such a world, during such a time, came some traveling souls. Seeking. Searching. Pursuing. Risking. Wanting. Needing. Offering. Bravely daring a heavenly light to fail them. “We have come to pay him homage,” they confessed. Homage to one who was destined to be shepherd among the lowly, voice for the muted, provider for the hungry, mender for the worn-out, embrace for the dejected, but loser in the eyes of the empire. In other words, these travelers were defying the empire of greatness, denying its lies, and challenging its supremacy. They followed that strident light to offer gifts and to offer themselves, among lowliness.

In secret, the weight of empire wobbles. Herod plots. The powers conspire. A king is frightened.

In such a time . . . Epiphany happens! This awakening breaks forth—this fulgent way of seeing, this vision of God’s direction in the now and the here; in this world, in yours, in theirs; in those circumstances and ours—a startling, unremitting shaft, or a motioning illumination, to beckon God’s beloved people, God’s treasured creation, out of darkness by another road.

Epiphany, in this kind of time.

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