

God's Star.

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

[Matthew 2: 7-12]

Reading Matthew's account of the intrepid travellers I found myself focusing on:

There was no going back to our old life.

The Magi remind us that following God's star is about travelling onwards the best way we know. There will be niggles. Stumbling in the undergrowth. Even stuck in the quick sand of no signposts. Feeling gremlins at work. Strange experiences with no answer let alone understanding. Alone or in a crowd. To the perplexing attempts to follow guidelines.

*A cold coming, we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey and such a long journey.*

These lines from T.S. Elliot's poem "The Journey of the Magi," resonant with our journeys coming to worship God. The delays, cancellations and diversions. Times we are inside or outside the bubble.

The Magi also show us that we will experience epiphany moments we want to last a life time.

We see this in C.S. Lewis' "The Magician's Nephew" which describes a journey that takes place in sunlight.

It is a wonderful ride. The big snowy mountains rose above them in every direction. The valleys far beneath them were so green and all the streams

which tumbled down from the glaciers into the main river were so blue. That it was like flying over gigantic pieces of jewellery. They would like this part of the adventure to go on a lot longer than it did.

Wherever we are in our journey it is knowing we will be either wisdom seekers or wisdom givers.

Keep following God's star. For God will unveil His spiritual truths. In such a way our eyes are opened to a different way to live. It is these delights we share with those who paths cross, weave and bond with our path.

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me,
fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

{Daniel Iverson 1890-197}



God comes to find us in all moments.

God comes in humility to meet us on our own ground.

God comes to give us His grace of love and hope.

God comes so little by little He removes the veil that mists our vision.

God comes to mould us little by little into His image.

May we like the Magi travel onwards with confidence knowing God does not social distance or wear a mask. God always penetrates lives with gifts of epiphany experiences. That even if we were able to go back to our old life, we will not find it the same. Because;

we are not the same.

We pray:

As we are stirred by the breath of the infinite God.

May his love live in our hearts and minds?

May his love rule over our hopes and fears.

God who whispers through desert sands, hovers over shimmering waters and rises on heaven's wings.

May each day be a gift, each moment precious.

May Christ's love reign in our families and friendships.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Thought for the day:

God's star leading us towards an end destination like none other on earth.

