

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"Behold A Star in the East"

By Pastor Lyn Linde, First United Methodist Church, Norton

"...Behold, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was." Matthew 2:9

There is a scene just outside my window which is before me every night. It is there for us all, an ever-recurring source of inspiration and comfort, if we will but look—the firmament of stars! We have only to step to a window to behold the glory of God, and see the pattern of the universe.

Yet how often do we study the sky, or even see it at all? Closed off in curtained rooms, taking our creature comforts in man-made warmth and light, we miss the vision of God's universal light and the warmth of His power.

Over two thousand years ago, there was a special star set in the sky one night to mark a place and an event for which the whole Oriental world had long been waiting. The star of Bethlehem! But on that brilliant long-ago night there were many, closed off with their little lights in their homes,

even in the Inn next to the manger, who did not see that star at all. Happily, there were those watching who did see the Star of Bethlehem and rejoiced in its message.

Among the watchers were two wholly different groups of men—simple shepherds watching their flocks in the night, and wise men from afar, the astronomers and phi-

losophers of their day. And both these groups of men, unlearned shepherds from the fields and the wise men with their learning, were led by that light to the manger, and to the Savior who was Christ the King.

That same light which stood before Bethlehem is the light of the world today. The brotherhood, the righteousness, and the peace which Christ came to bring to mankind are here for us all, shepherds and wise men, rich and poor, strong and weak. The light and the hope stay fast and immovable; we have only to open our eyes to see, and our hearts to know.

These same stars reflect today that the world may embrace that holy night so long ago when salvation was born among us. Have you looked out your window to see the star for yourself? If not, do so tonight and thank God for the gift of the Christ Child who came to this world that you might have life and have it abundantly.

Weekly Scripture Reading

- * Malachi 3:1-18
- Isaiah 49:1-23
- Jeremiah 31:1-22
- Jeremiah 31:23-40
- Jeremiah 33:1-26
- Luke 1:1-25
- Luke 1:26-56
- *

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

Candles of Christmas

Upon the mantle, beautiful candles glow as they burn through special occasions throughout the holidays... reminders of those times when family and friends gather to celebrate the birth of Christ. Though the holidays will end, let us carry a candle for the Child in each of our hearts throughout the coming year. May the warmth of His spirit mold each of us into the person we are meant to be and may we share God's joy with everyone we meet. Give thanks to God for His greatest gift, and worship Him each week.



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1	8	9	2	6	5	3	4	7
3	5	4	7	8	9	6	2	1
2	7	6	3	4	1	9	5	8
9	3	2	1	7	8	4	6	5
6	4	7	9	5	2	8	1	3
8	1	5	6	3	4	2	7	9
5	2	8	4	1	3	7	9	6
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4	6	1	8	9	7	5	3	2

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Horseplay

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