

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 19/12/2021

Text(s): Matthew 2:1–18

Sermon Title: Oh Bethlehem

Preacher: Rev Dr Jonathan Seet

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Matthew 2:1–18 (NIV84)

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

11 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 and of incense and of myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,

15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. The Magi were from a faraway land. They knew only a little about the coming King of kings but it was enough to spur them to travel the distance to seek out this King. What have you learned in the past about these Magi? Whether you knew something about them from before or not, why do you think they committed their time and resources for this journey?**
- 2. The religious leaders knew the Scripture well. They knew how the King of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem. But they did not take the time to seek him out. What do you think stopped them from doing so?**
- 3. Another character we see is King Herod. Why did he go to the extent of demanding that all the boys two years and under in Bethlehem be killed? What could possibly motivate him to give out this wicked order for a horrendous massacre?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. What may not be obvious in today's bible passage is that God is in control of all things. What were some of the details pointed out by the preacher to establish this truth? How does this speak to you knowing that God is in control of events that surround us?**
- 2. Peace is not the absence of storms. Peace is the presence of God. If threats arise to take away the personal things you treasure or the positions in some organizations that you value, would you lose your peace? In what situations have you lost your peace in the past? How would you handle them differently if you were given the chance to experience that situation again?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to have a true heart of worship, so that we will place God above everything else in our hearts.
- Pray for our church to be a people who truly know the peace of God coming to us through Jesus the Prince of Peace, a peace that exists in our hearts despite the storms around us.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and to stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.