



## Grace of Christ Church

To Love Jesus, Love our City, Together in Community

January 4, 2026 - Communion & Epiphany Sunday

Happy (early) Epiphany!

This Sunday we are recognizing a couple of days early the festival of Epiphany or Día de los Reyes Magos (Three Kings Day). While in English we have our old song about the 12 days of Christmas, the secular calendar with New Years' has come to dominate, and Santa Claus is the gift-bringer rather than the more biblical wise men. The festival of Epiphany is important, though, because it highlights a major theme of the gospel of Matthew... that Jesus as the king of the Jews is bringing the world to himself to do homage... not as a conquering ruler, but as a humble child. For some reason, there's a lot of traditions and myths about the wise men. But the word "Magi" is a technical term for Zoroastrian priests from Persia. It's not really a wonder who they are, and they aren't kings (reyes)... But they do bring their riches to Jesus, as the Queen of Sheba brought an entourage to Solomon, and as is promised in Revelation 21.

Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr

### Order of Service

**Welcome & Opening Song**

**Lord's Supper**

**Meet & Greet**

Kids & Youth dismissed to classes

**Giving, Prayer & Special Music**

**Message: The King of Kings**

Haggai 2:7 1:1, Matthew 2:1-4, 9-11

Revelation 19:16, 21:23-26

Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr

**Closing Song & Benediction**

**Apostles Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. He descended into hell; and on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

### Upcoming & Announcements

**KOINONIA: MEAL WITH THE WAGENFUHRS**

You are invited to join us for fellowship and a potluck meal with our new pastor, Gregory and his wife Ainhua. The host will provide the main dish and connect with you to coordinate a possible side or dessert. To select a date and sign up, go to [yakimagrace.com/koinonia](http://yakimagrace.com/koinonia).

**WOW BEGINS JAN 13**

Women of the Word (WOW) invite all Grace women and their friends to join us on Tuesday starting Jan 13 at 9:45 in the Lounge. We will walk with Jesus to the Cross and learn through the eyes of Mark more about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.

**O HOLY NIGHT ART SHOW**

Stop by the Garden Room and wander through our Christmas art display. Each piece was inspired by scripture and created by children and families of Grace.

**SEND IN YOUR PHOTO!**

Please **text or email** a selfie or a family photo with the spelling of your name(s) and the phone number you want printed in the directory to [pic@yakimagrace.com](mailto:pic@yakimagrace.com).

## Epiphany: The King of Kings

**Scriptures:** Haggai 2:7, Matthew 2:1-4, 9-11 Revelation 19:16, 21:23-26

### Outline

**Introduction:** Soft and Hard Power

**Foundation 1:** Hard Power Brings Tribute, Soft Power Brings Gifts

**Foundation 2:** The Vision of Homage

**Foundation 3:** Jesus Changes the Story of Geopolitics

**Implication (So what?):** The Good News of The King of Kings

**Application (Now What?):** God's gift to the world is himself, a gift that brings diverse people together to be reconciled in him, and to become a people who bear God's gift of good news to the world.

### Study Questions

- Expectations around what God would do to the nations who have caused trouble to his people in the Old Testament typically come in displays of hard power: judgment. How do you see hard and soft power at work among the nations of our own time? What's the "gold" and "silver" of our time?
- Human kings, even those like Solomon who accrue lots of soft power, end up also needing a strong military. "Speak softly and carry a big stick" was of course Theodore Roosevelt's way of speaking of the blend of soft/hard power. How was Jesus different? How have you or are you now living? Do you carry a "big stick"?
- The power of God shown in Jesus is very different. Rather than cultural soft power, or military hard power, Jesus spread the soft power of loving God and loving neighbor, creating a robust community. How do you think church institutions engage in various forms of soft and hard power? How could they be more like Jesus?

### Implications: So What?

How do we approach Jesus' Lordship? How do we bear Christ's lordship to the world as good news?

### Applications: Now What?

God brought Zoroastrian priests/astrologers/scientists from the land of Jewish exile to do homage to Jesus... Who are you coming to Jesus from? How could we bring the treasures of our various cultures together?