



## **Crossroads UMC Worship 01-02-2022**

**Prelude**

**Danika Rzenkowski**

### **Words of Welcome**

#### **Call to Worship**

L: We come to this place—

**P: each of us on our own path.**

L: The path is winding,

**P: and the path is not always clear,**

L: and the path changes,

**P: but we are here.**

L: God is walking us home.

**P: What a gift it is to not walk alone.**

L: Let us worship Holy God.

#### **Prayer of Confession** *(in unison)*

**God of changed plans, The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way. We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

#### **Words of Assurance**

L: Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**P: No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

#### **Gospel Lesson**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be



born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

## **Praise**

## **We Three Kings**

## **Sermon Sermon Series**

## **Home By Another Way Close To Home** Pastor Scott Walters

## **Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*(Prayers are adapted with permission from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)*