

Kailua Christian Church  
Sunday Message  
Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson  
November 28, 2021  
**First Sunday of Advent**

## ***Jesus' Gifts of Christmas***

### **Hope**

#### ***Reason to Rise Up***

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,<sup>2</sup> “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:*

*<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;  
For out of you shall come forth a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”*

*<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”<sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Matthew 2:1-12*

**We rise up in hope by...**

### **I. Seeking God's presence and purpose**

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,<sup>2</sup> “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:1-2*

- *What is a new change you could make to seek God’s presence and purpose in fresh ways?*

## **II. Embracing joy with generosity**

*“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. “After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2;10-11*

- *What joy have you experienced lately that inspired generosity with others?*

## **III. Remaining true to God’s presence and purpose**

*“And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Matthew 2:12*

- *How could remaining true to God’s presence and purpose help you serve others rather than attempting to please them?*