

# **SERMON FOR JANUARY 6, 2013**

The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i (UCC)  
Epiphany Sunday

7:45 & 10:30 Worship Services

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; **Matthew 2:1-12**

Message: ***“Epiphany: The Star Also Shines on Our Life Journey in 2013!”***

Kekapa P.K. Lee

## ***‘Adoration of the Magi’ by Dr. He Qi***

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## **Gathering in the Word**

### **Hearing the Word**

**Isaiah 60:1-6 (NIV 2011)**

60 <sup>12</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of

Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

**Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV 2011)**

*The Magi Visit the Messiah*

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “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 shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been

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

## Doing the Word

So what is the Word of God for us on this Epiphany Sunday 2013?

1. **ONE - Expect the unexpected!**
2. **TWO - Expect surprises!**
3. **THREE - Expect barriers and dividing walls to be breached and eradicated!**

## Sent in the Word

