

# Where's Your Chair?

Epiphany



Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
Isaiah 60:1

## **Praising:**

O Light of all the earth, thy children wait for thee!  
Come to thy temples here,  
that we, from sin set free,  
before thy Father's face may all presented be!

## **Reading:**

Matthew 2:1-12  
Foreign visitors

Whoever these far-travelled king-seekers actually are, they give an unexpected international dimension to the birth of Jesus. If their surprise presence isn't portentous enough, the fact that they have tracked their route by astronomical means adds a further cosmic twist. It's as though the coming of this baby to Bethlehem is an event of significance for the world, indeed the whole galaxy. Herod fears

simply that his children might be excluded from the throne. Most of us can identify with Herod's instinct to safeguard the interests of his family. But the calculating and ruthless lengths he goes to are an extreme example of the danger inherent in giving free reign to our natural urge to self-protection. So far as earthly dominion and monarchical power are concerned, Herod has little to worry about. God has something far more revolutionary in mind.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord we hold before you our mission partners

- Rory, Denise and Gideon Wilson in Kiwoko Hospital Uganda
- Bishop Gaddiel and his clergy and people in the diocese of Kajiado Kenya
- all the dark places of the earth where the light of Christ is only a flicker

Father: rise within me like a star. Set me forth on a journey into the light and hope of Christ so that my worship of him may point others to his saving love for them and all the world. Amen

## **Doing:**

Wednesday, 06 January 2016