

## 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*“We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him” (Matthew 2:2)*

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY IDEAS

*Themes within the central Scripture text include the stars, the Magi, and following God's call for us all. Here are some activities that can be done with children, in family or faith community settings.*

- The Magi begin their journey by following the new star in the East. At night, or with pictures of the constellations, show how the Magi would have followed familiar stars and constellations to navigate without modern technology. You can also show the different constellations in different hemispheres, and what they mean to different cultures.
- If your church uses a Nativity set to tell the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, this is an excellent time to tell the story of the Magi's arrival using the Nativity set. If not, one can be made with construction paper, modeling clay, wooden pegs, felt and fabric, or even gingerbread.
- The traditional gifts the Magi bring are gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Using these objects (or an equivalent in your community), ask the children why they think these gifts were the ones brought to Jesus, and explain their significance.
- Ask the children what they would have brought Jesus to show they worshipped him. A favourite book or toy? A gold watch or money? Technology like a phone or tablet? Or something for Christ as a baby, like a blanket?
- Together with the children, look at current and ancient maps of the region that the story occurred in. Discuss where Bethlehem is, Jerusalem is, and where the Magi would have come from.
- After the Magi arrive in Bethlehem and honour Jesus, they return to their homes, taking a new path as told to them in a dream. Depending on the weather, have the children learn this story as an obstacle course through the neighbourhood, the faith community, or even at home; they start as Magi, need to find gifts to pay homage, travel through the desert to Jerusalem, then Bethlehem, then home on a new path.