

## Daily Devotional, December 15, 2020 Jesus Christ, Our Polaris

<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. Matthew 2.10 (NIV)*

I enjoy astrology. I enjoy exploring the unknown, and realizing the more I learn about the universe, the more fascinated I become. When I was about junior high age, I bought a phosphorescent star guide at the Adler Planetarium, and having my bedroom on the second floor of our home in Chicago with a flat roof on our dormer, I used to sneak out at night gazing at the stars above and trying to identify the constellations that I would find on my star gazer. I would be thrilled every time I could identify a new one. Every year, with the development of new technology, planets, galaxies and stars are identified in light year measurements I cannot begin to fathom. I consider my star gazing to be a lot like faith, I can't see all the universe, yet I believe it exists.

Long before GPS equipment was invented, navigators would often use a sextant to find Polaris, the north star. As star gazers would tell you to, "Find Polaris, get your bearings, and go from there." This is because the North Star is fixed in the heavens directly over the North Pole. Therefore, as the earth rotates on its axis the heavens appear to revolve and the sun and the moon rises and sets, but the North Star stays fixed in the sky.

Our Christian lives function in much the same manner. Jesus through the words of the Gospel, is the fixed point by which we calibrate our understanding of the Christian faith. Understanding who Jesus is and what Jesus had done in his short lifetime, we begin to comprehend that the world was created within God's eternal plan. This plan is to bring together everyone through Jesus, who is the great polar star we have been searching for—the one who we get our bearings through! Christ is the fixed point around which all things turn and gives meaning to everything in life.

Christ, who is the centerpiece of history, our lives, and all of eternity, offers the constant re-calibration of our souls. In much the same way that travelers who head toward another land, such as the wise men, we must find ourselves synchronizing with the gospel of eternal hope. When we need a model to follow, we are reminded of those unsophisticated, dependent pilgrims who walked across unknown lands while being led by the stars above.

We are lights to the world to the degree that we reflect the character of Jesus. Therefore, in a world where people find this time of year particularly stressful or sad due to loss or unmet expectations, or uncertainty, let's shine the light of grace and love to all humankind that we encounter in whatever form that might take. For we are the bearers of the north star's light for those seeking in the dark.

***Prayer: Creator God, as hard as it may seem in this unusual year, under such difficult circumstances, as we light our candles, our houses, and our Christmas trees, let us remember to spark our inner light so others will see Christ in us and through us as they search for meaning and some spark of joy in their lives through these Advent and Christmas seasons. In the light of Christ we pray, Amen.***