

Songs

Great Is Thy Faithfulness– One Sonic Society
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (He Has Come for Us) – North Point
Promises – The Worship Initiative
Noel – Lauren Daigle
Your Love Never Fails – Jesus Culture

Giving

On Sunday: use wooden boxes by auditorium doors
Online: npberean.org/give
Text: text any amount to 84321
Mail: 202 W. 8th St.
North Platte, NE 69101

Coming up

- **Hometown Hope 2021:** It's not too late to get involved! Go to our Facebook page or search #nphope21 to find the videos and consider how you can generously support these nonprofits.
- **Follow the Star - Drive-thru Nativity experience! – Today 12/19, 12:15 p.m., NPBC:** Encounter Jesus through the Nativity story! We are inviting anyone who is available to join us for Lunch in The Commons; then from 1-4 p.m. we'll set up the Nativity around the church so it is ready to be open from 6-8 p.m. tonight to church families and the public!
- **Christmas Eve gatherings – Fri. 12/24; 3, 4:30, or 6 p.m.; Family-friendly gatherings:** Many of us are so familiar with the Christmas story that it can easily become white noise within the holiday season. But we're talking about God coming *in the flesh* – and there is nothing ho-hum about this reality, if we're willing to really stop and consider it. Join together in celebrating Jesus' birth this Christmas Eve!
- **Baptism – Fri. 12/24, 3 p.m.:** Baptism is a public witness of an internal reality – that the person has passed from death to life by trusting in Jesus alone for salvation. Christmas Eve we're baptizing:
 - Jamey Swanson – by Rachel Swanson (wife) and George Jenkins (friend).
- **Holiday schedule:** We're making a few changes to our usual schedule over the holidays to give time for our church family, volunteers, and staff to rest and connect with their families:
 - **Sola (grades 6-12):** Not meeting Wed. 12/22 or 12/29; no middle school Sun. 12/26.
 - **252 (grades K-5):** Not meeting Sun. 12/26 or 1/2; however, First Look (infant-PreK) will meet.



BEREAN CHURCH

Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

12.19.21

Welcome!

We'd love to connect and be a spiritual resource for you – please fill out a ConnectCard (in seat pocket or npberean.org/cc). If you're new, bring your ConnectCard to the information center for a welcome gift.

New here?

- **Digital bulletin:** Visit npberean.org/sunday for enhanced digital version of this bulletin or npberean.org/sundayprint for PDF version.
- **Sunday large gatherings:** 8, 9:15, & 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; livestream at facebook.com/npberean at 9:15 a.m. or npberean.org/live anytime.
- **Need a Bible?** Available free at information center.
- **Sound levels:** Assisted listening devices and earplugs available at sound booth in back of auditorium.
- **Office hours:** Mon.-Thu. 9-4 (closed Tue. 1:30-2:30 for staff meeting).
- **Find out more:** Visit npberean.org, email npberean@npberean.org, or call 308-532-7448.

For families

- **Mother's Room:** A private place to care for your baby and still connect to the gathering via livestream – follow signs north of auditorium.
- **Kids Connect (infant-grade 5):** Available at 9:15 and 11 a.m. – check-in east of Commons or upstairs from foyer. Kids also welcome in large gatherings. At-home resources: npberean.org/kids-connect-at-home.
- **Sola (grades 6-12):** Main gatherings Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. – meet in 252 room/The Commons. Middle school also meets today at 11 a.m. in the Upper Rooms.

Troubled Encounter

Encountering the Child • Dan Smith • 12.19.21

Matthew 2

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet (see Mic. 5:2, 4; 2 Sam. 5:1-2).

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet (see Hos. 11:1), "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah (see Jer. 31:15):

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Talk it over

During Christmas and New Year's, we're encouraging Grow Groups to take a break and enjoy the holidays. During the break, consider using the "Swedish Method" to engage with the key Bible passage(s) from the sermon:

- 💡 What did you notice from the passage? What stood out to you while reading or listening to it?
- ❓ What questions do you have from the passage? Was there anything you did not understand? Was there something you would like to ask the writer or the Lord from the passage?
- ➔ Where can we take what was said and apply it to our life?