Sermon:

When do you put your decorations down? One lady reportedly was doing so while her family was still unwrapping presents!

The custom is on 6 Jan, when the Christmas season ends with Epiphany.

It helps to separate Epiphany from Christmas, reinforcing the gap between birth and Magi’s visit.

There is a lot of speculation about the Magi – how many, from where exactly, kings, etc.

What do we actually know?

1. Foreigners
   1. From the East
   2. Studied stars
   3. Probably Zoroastrians
2. Responsive
   1. Interpreted stars
   2. Journeyed a long way
   3. Undiscouraged when expectations dashed
   4. Obedient to the dream
3. Offered gifts
   1. Gold for a king
   2. Frankincense for deity
   3. Myrrh for Jesus’ death

As we move into 2016 we may see ourselves like the Magi.

In the eyes of many we are like foreigners – odd customs, ideas.

We respond to God’s impulse, journeying together, undiscouraged by setbacks.

We offer our gifts to each other and our community.

In 2016, may we be wise men and women, for God’s Kingdom.