



A Community of faith, led by God's spirit, offering Christ to the World

“Our Gifts for Epiphany”

January 8, 2023

In Christian context, Epiphany is the time where we step into the story of the Magi. Wisemen from the East led by a star on their journey to find the newborn King. Once the star stopped over the house where Jesus was staying, the Magi had an opportunity to share their gifts in worship of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gifts with many meanings to the King that was to lead the Jews to a new found peace and freedom in this world. These Magi were called to follow without reservation until they found the newborn King, and once he was found, they worshiped the One that had been promised for 400 years.

The primary significance of the gifts lay in their great value—they were indeed gifts fit for a king. Beyond making it clear that these were great treasures given in an act of worship, Scripture does not directly attach any other symbolic meaning to the gifts. However, without venturing too far off into extra-biblical speculation, it's reasonable to draw a few possible inferences from the gifts brought by the wise men. These valuable gifts were clearly intended to honor Jesus, but it's possible they carried deeper theological significance as well.

As was customary for royal visits, the wise men came bearing treasured gifts intended to honor the newborn king. And as it is today, gold was a valued commodity in the ancient world. Among the types of assets listed in the Bible, accumulation of gold was one of the chief measures of wealth (Genesis 13:2, Ecclesiastes 2:8). Because of its scarcity and immense value, gold was particularly associated with royalty and nobility, as is seen in 1 Kings 10 when the Queen of Sheba visits King Solomon bearing great quantities of gold as a gift. By bringing a gift of gold, the wise men showed that they did indeed consider Jesus a king.

As with gold, frankincense may also have an implied connection with the Temple worship of the Old Covenant. Burning incense at the altar was a key part of the sacrificial system prescribed by God for use in the Tabernacle and, later, in the Temple itself. According to Exodus 30, however, not just any incense would do. A specific recipe of spices mixed with “pure frankincense” (v. 34) was to be consecrated as “pure and holy” (v.35) and was the only incense permitted at the altar. A speculative parallel can be drawn between this and Jesus' life as a pure and holy offering to the Lord.

Just like the first two gifts, there is a Temple connection with myrrh as well. Exodus 30 tells us that liquid myrrh was a main ingredient in the anointing oil used to ceremonially prepare the priests, the instruments, the altar, and the Temple itself before sacrifices could be made. Again, parallels to Jesus' consecrated life and sacrificial death are immediately noticeable.

All three gifts reveal thought-provoking implications that related to Jesus' life and ministry. What gifts do we bring in worship to the King? What are we willing to carry and lay at His feet as we step into a new season of ministry that will make disciples for the transformation of the world?

In His grip,
Jason

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Kristi Chriss** by Nikki Graham

In memory of **Art Chriss** by Nikki Graham

BACKPACKS OF GRACE

January is Backpacks of Grace month at Wynnton!

Backpacks of Grace is a ministry of our church through which we provide weekend food for selected students at our Partner in Education school, Wynnton Arts Academy. Each Thursday morning, volunteers pack bags that are distributed at the school on Friday. We purchase basic items from Feeding the Valley at low costs.

Supplemental items are purchased at retail food stores. If you wish to donate, please choose items from the list below. They must be packaged in INDIVIDUAL SERVING containers. Also, NO PEANUTS can be in the product or in the manufacturing process (see "Contains" label on packages). Collection bins are in the Fellowship Hall and the hallway outside the Library. Items which are helpful are:

Individual macaroni and cheese cups

Individual snacks (cookies, crackers, etc.)

Individual breakfast food (cereal, oatmeal, grits, etc.)

Individual fruit cups (diced fruit, applesauce, etc.)

Financial donations may be made through the church office.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

WYNNTON ARTS ACADEMY NEEDS

Our church was able to serve 23 students through the Adopt-A-Family project. Thank you all so much for your generosity. This year there were individuals who "adopted" students in addition to the Sunday School classes!

In January and February, WAA is asking for donations of **gloves and socks**. The cold weather is approaching and many students are in need of these items. Please drop your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall to be delivered.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

The Oxford dictionary describes Epiphany as "a sudden and surprising moment of understanding." For Christians, it is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12.)

Chorally, we sing with awe and reverence as we move past the fatigue of a long journey to the intimacy of the worship of a Babe in a manger; the newborn King!

"Behold the Child" by Pepper Choplin

From the Father, the God of creation, comes the Son, fully human and fully divine.

He is born as a child to live with us awhile.

Heaven comes to the earth through the Son's holy birth.

Behold the Child and bring adoration. Behold the Child, the Holy One. We bow before the manger throne, singing, "Holy, holy, holy, holy." Come to the manger side. Behold, the Child. The Son, God has highly exalted. He has given Him a name above ev'ry name, that at His name, we shall bow through the Holy Spirit's pow'r.

Our praises we pour and confess He is Lord.

Behold the Child and bring adoration. Behold the Child, the Holy One. We bow before the manger throne, singing, "Holy, holy, holy, holy." Come to the manger side. Behold, the Child. O come to the manger side. Behold the Child.

Behold the Child and bring adoration. Behold the Child, the Holy One. We bow before the manger throne, singing, "Holy, holy, holy, holy." Come to the manger side. Behold, the Child. O come to the manger side. Behold, the Child.

As always, I am so very grateful for the dedication and hard work of all who participate in the music ministry at Wynnton, and grateful for the loving support of our Wynnton family and friends. May 2023 bring us closer to God, and bless every step of our Christian journey.

God's Great Peace to You!

Diana B.

The Chancel Flowers are given by Cliff and Mary Livingston in memory of their parents.

- *Youth CORE Groups Resume January 8th
- *Youth Prayer Breakfast & Jesus Resumes January 13th
- *Youth Parents Meeting - January 29th @ 5pm
- *Youth Winter Retreat - February 17th - 20th
- *Youth Information: Text @basement22 to 81010
- *Youth Parents Info: Text @wumcpa to 81010



Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through age 3 is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for Pre-K-5th Grade is on the first floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday School is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children in Pre-K through 4th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the Grimes Building on the first floor in the Children's Church room next to the nursery.

BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of January. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.

UPCOMING ADULT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Come help us make cards for our homebound members Wednesday, January 18th, from 11:30 to 1:30. A light lunch will be provided.

We will be having a planning meeting for adult ministry events on January 19th at 12:00 p.m. Please plan on bringing your lunch and ideas for adult ministry activities.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Advent Readings 3

Epiphany Readings: January 8-14

Luke 2:1-12

This week we will be reading about the Magi. Sunday, January 8th, we will be celebrating Epiphany Sunday. It is a time to remember the visit of the Magi and the significance of the knowledge of the birth of Jesus to all the world, not just the Jewish people. The Magi came from a different land, and because of their cultural differences and status, were thought of as kings. They studied the heavens and the prophecies of the past. Because of this, they noticed the difference in the star that lit up over Bethlehem. They were of a different culture, they had a different set of beliefs, but they knew that when even the stars bowed to the birth of that child, He would grow up to change the world.

FLOWER DELIVERY

Cindy Autry

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please help us update our information (or pick up a card in the church) by using this QR code. Contact Will Walley at the church for more information or questions.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8 Joy Forlines, Ed Thigpen
 9 Doris Hicks, Rick Toelle
 10 Barbara Blackwell, Margie Nell White
 12 Natalie Hubbard, Jason Wade,
 Jaleen Welch
 13 Sam Hartin, Donna Thigpen
 14 Rosemary Thigpen

OUR STEWARDSHIP

12-25-22

General Fund.....10,171.00
 Backpacks of Grace.....80.00
 Christmas Eve.....794.00
 Christmas.....1,535.00
 Endowment.....100.00
 Missions.....50.00
 Loose Offering.....25.00
 Prepaid pledges.....2100.00
 Thanksgiving.....500.00

1-1-23

General Fund.....6,953.00
 Christmas.....100.00
 Other Contributions.....21.00

End of Year

General Fund.....44,905.00
 Missions.....50.00
 Wynnton Neighborhood Network...100.00

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies Jan. 6-8
 Dr. Jason Wade 770-289-4039

WYNNTON SAFETY SQUAD

January 8: Team7: Eddie Cawthorne, Jeff Yates
 David Giammona

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexy McRae
Lynn Christenson	Dorothy Robinson
Aubrey Walker	Jennefer Spell
Daro Miller	Jim Accordino
David Woolbright	Denise Hill
Pam Feagle	Benjamin Feagle
Julee Robinson McGehee	Barbara McKenzie
Betty Garrett	Richard Holmes
Lucy Hart	Agnes Tew
Andy Andresen	Joy Graham
Sue Pope	Freddie Richardson
Doris Rowe	Denton Spurlin
Tom Stafford	Shelley Montgomery
Jeanine Cotton	

OUR ATTENDANCE

12-24-22

3:30 p.m.....159
 5:30 p.m.....142

12-25-22

10:00.....105

1-1-23

10:00 Service.....92

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 8

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship service - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
Streams Live on Facebook
5:00-7:00 p.m. CORE Group - Youth

Monday, January 9

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Library
5:30 p.m. Bible Study - Home of Beth Hendrickson

Tuesday, January 10

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
10:00 a.m. Quilting Group - Alpha Building
6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting - Alpha Building
6:00 p.m. Wynnton Neighborhood Housing - Library

Wednesday, January 11

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Alpha Building
12-1 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
6:15 -7:15 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
6:30 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Building
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace

Friday, January 13

- 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast - Chick-fil-A -
Whittlesey Rd.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the crew who helped take down Christmas decorations Monday. It only took 40 minutes!

