

Further Reflections:

The Magi brought gifts that represented the character and purpose of the Christ-child who was born, who was Himself God's gift to humanity!

GOLD – is a symbol of something that is divine or that comes from God. The Magi's gift of gold to the baby Jesus reminds us that Jesus was God in the Flesh, or Emmanuel which means "God with us".

FRANKINCENSE – is a symbol of God's holiness & righteousness. This fragrant resin was often burned during worship as a sacrifice to God. The Magi's gift of Frankincense to baby Jesus tells us of the future sacrifice that Jesus would make as he died to pay for our sins.

MYRRH – is a symbol of bitterness, suffering, and affliction. This fragrant resin was often used to embalm a person's body in preparation for their funeral. The Magi's gift of Myrrh to the baby Jesus reminds us of his future bitterness and suffering on our behalf.

Sing: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Page 5 in Christmas Carol songbook)

<https://youtu.be/NOxJFN-9> vs

Pray:

*Pray that God would open the eyes of our heart to see that all the prophecies foretold in the Old Testament came true through the birth of Jesus, the Christ-child! Also, that many more people in our day would come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior!
In JESUS Name, Amen!*



Home Worship Bulletin

New Year's Day

Sunday, Jan 1st, 2023



churchonthecorner.us



Sing: We Three Kings of Orient Are
(Page 27 in Christmas Carol songbook)

Magi visit Jesus – Read Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection:

Many cultures around the world celebrate the holiday called Epiphany as the day that the Magi, or Wisemen, visited Jesus. In 2023, that day falls on Friday, January 6th.

The Magi from “the East”, likely Persia or modern-day Iran, had been waiting all their lives for this moment. Based on the timeline provided by the prophet Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27), and a prophecy from Numbers 24:7 foretelling of a “star coming out of Jacob.”, they anticipated the birth of the Anointed One, or Messiah, whom God had promised to send to rule and reign forever on the throne of King David (2 Sam. 7:13, Lk. 1:32-33).

When the Magi came before the Roman ruler, King Herod, the religious leaders of the day showed that they were all aware of

the prophecy from Micah 5:2, that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:3-6).

The Magi followed the Word of God, and the light of a star that guided them to this exact spot where the Messiah was born:

-Matthew 2:9-11 NLT

“After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Just as the Magi looked forward to the day when they would see the Messiah in the flesh at His first coming, we too can believe in this same Christ-child named Jesus as the one whom God promised to send to redeem the world from sin.

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

-Matthew 1:21 NIV

And just as we can trust God’s Word about the first coming of the Messiah, His Son Jesus Christ, we can also look forward to His second coming when He will one day establish his throne of Justice and Righteousness forever and ever!

Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Page 19 in Christmas Carol songbook)