



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
214 East Jefferson Street, Iowa City 52240. (At the corner of Dubuque & Jefferson Streets)
Phone 319.337.2857. *Lead Pastor, Rev. Dr. Barrie M. Tritle*

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Sunday morning worship services at 8, 9:15, and 10:30 / Sunday School at 9:15

Growing Deeper and Going Farther by Pastor Barrie M. Tritle

Scripture for the Week of December 26, 2010

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Centering Quote

“Love. What is love? No word can define it, it's something so great, only God could design it. Yes, love is beyond, what man can define, for love is immortal, and God's gift is divine.” **Anonymous**

Reflections: The Gifts of Christmas

So what did you receive for Christmas? According to our Scripture Reading Jesus received Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh from the wise eastern men known in popular culture as Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar.

Why did these wise men from the East bring these gifts and what do they mean for us and for Jesus? It has been said that Gold is a Kingly gift, Frankincense is a Priestly gift and Myrrh is a Messianic gift.

Gold is of great value like a king, Frankincense is expensive incense used by a priest in worship, and Myrrh is used as embalming oil for anointing the dead.

Three questions to ponder:

- 1) How has Jesus become Lord King of your life, center to how you live your life and most precious to you?
- 2) How has Jesus taught you the way of living the love God like a priest leads his people in worshipful living?
- 3) How has Jesus sacrifice upon the cross brought you into a resurrected new life?

