

St John Church of Christ

December 20, 2020

Now meeting Online Only

Gold, Frankincense, & Myrrh

ONLINE



Our online Adult Bible Study continues this morning at 10:30. It's based on John McKeel's recent book, *Peter the Friend of Jesus Speaks*. Our programs are available over the internet starting Sundays at 10:30 for Adult Class and 11:00 for Worship. Just visit

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

and select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:



Can you imagine a baby shower where the young mother is given a sack full of gold, a bag of frankincense and a sachet of myrrh?

"Oh! How thoughtful. Just what I needed: myrrh! What is myrrh anyway?"

Gold we can understand. Young parents need every penny they can save! Huggies aren't cheap, but what are frankincense and myrrh and why did the wise men give these specific gifts to the Christ-child?

Frankincense, in addition to being used in perfume and incense, is burned to drive away mosquitoes that carry malaria. (It is still used this way today in Oman.) Likewise myrrh is used medicinally as a pain reliever.

Wine with myrrh was offered to Jesus before his crucifixion to lessen the pain, but Christ refused it (Mark 15:23). These are gifts fit for a king. Frankincense and myrrh are used particularly in incense and royal perfumes (See Song of Songs 1:13; 3:6; 4:6, 14; 5:1, 5, 13). They are both rare resins harvested from trees that grow wild in the Horn of Africa.

We also see God's providence in these gifts. As we learn from the story, evil King Herod has lied to the wise men. He said, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him," but Herod didn't want to worship the child. He wanted to kill him. Fortunately God warned Joseph:

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Matthew 2:13 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.

But let's be practical. Could you pick up and leave everything tonight? What would you take with you? How would you transport it? Joseph and Mary had lived in Bethlehem for almost two years. Joseph had his tools and his workshop to move. Mary had all the household belongings. Fortunately the gifts of the wise men allowed them to leave everything, flee and start over in Egypt. God provides!



News & Prayer Requests

Because of the virus, we are forced to do things differently than we have in the past. For example, this past week, we laid Gladys Horbaker to rest in the Peace Creek Cemetery. In normal times, we all would have surrounded Don and the family with our presence. Sadly, we could only cover them with our prayers.

It was a lovely memorial with all four of her children in attendance. Fortunately, Jay Minnis video-taped it all and you can view the program online. [Click here](#) for the hyper link. In lieu of flowers donations to support Carpenter Place in Wichita can be sent in care of Minnis Chapel, 125 N. Main, Stafford, KS 67578.



"Dennis Rosenbaum has appreciated your prayers on behalf of his wife Susan. Susan fell asleep in the Lord Tuesday 12/8 just after 1 P.M. Susan was a great encouragement and a godly example to many every place where she and Dennis have served," – Timothy Tarbet, New Milford, CT. The Rosenbaums left their mark on the churches of New England, where we supported them for many years. Dennis continues to preach in Florida.

Paul, John's friend from high school in Washington, continues to deal with his cancer. Please pray for Paul and his lovely wife Bernice.

Please pray especially for:

- The Turner family in Great Bend as they continue to heal.
- Curtis as he wrestles with cancer and now covid.
- But above all else, let's give thanks for the many blessings God continually gives us – even in these hard times!

