

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

27/12/2020 – Being Wise

The Wise men



All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

Good morning and welcome to our journey to Christmas.

Our carol today is "We Three Kings"

[We Three Kings of Orient Are - The Robert Shaw Chorale - YouTube](#)

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

O Star of wonder, star of night...

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high

O Star of wonder, star of night...

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

O Star of wonder, star of night...

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

O Star of wonder, star of night...

Our reading today are taken from Matthew 2

[Matthew 2 NIVUK - The Magi visit the Messiah - After - Bible Gateway](#)

We are nearing the end of our Christmas journey. We heard of Jesus birth and the shepherds message. Today we are thinking of the wise men, and the not so nice king Herod.

I'm sure that most of you have read or seen the movie of the story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." by Dr Suss. In this story everyone in Who-ville loved Christmas. Everyone, that is, except the Grinch. The Grinch hated Christmas and made up a plan to spoil the joy of Christmas in Who-ville. His plan was to dress up as Santa Claus and go into Who-ville and steal all of their Christmas presents, all of their Christmas trees and all of the food for teir Christmas dinners.

What a terrible thing to do! Do you know why the Grinch hated Christmas so much? Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small! He was so selfish that he hated to see anyone else who was happy and enjoying themselves. But, as you know, the Grinch's plan did not work. Why? Because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.

This story is not a true story but today our bible reading is a true story of another "Grinch" who tried to steal Christmas. In fact, he tried to steal the very first Christmas. This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod.

After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked where they could find the child who had been born to be the king of the Jews. "We have seen his star in the sky and want to worship him" they said. When Herod heard about this, he told the men that when they found the child, they should come back and tell him where the child was so that he could worship him too. The truth is, Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill him. Why? Perhaps his heart was too small! Herod was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and perhaps even take over his kingdom.

Herod's plan to kill Jesus wasn't to work. After the wise men found Jesus and left their gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

Its interesting that the wise men are described as "wise" as they saved that very first Christmas. Since that very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. It will never work -- unless your heart is too small. Be like those wise and make sure that your heart is big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone you meet -- not just at Christmas -- but all year long.



Let us pray.

Dear Father, we thank you for the joy that Jesus brings. Help us to share that joy with everyone we meet. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

The Gift of the Magi

R N O I S S E S S O P R B L B F R O S V Q F P J
H I N J U Y Z M U U Z B S N N W C K D I V G Z E
E O T R E O Y C C P E R S O N I F I C A T I O N
C J P N U P J X P H E I R L O O M D W U O X G Z
N J O H B A T L H Y I T A A M A P E C U L I A R
A M U B I B H I R S A C R I F I C E Z Q U R K Q
T G W B G U L W U T K S J G S I T B M B A T I J
S X W K D R A B R R Z A O I L W X X Y U Z H I O
M V Z R H G E F O B O D M W L W R T O N A Q M Z
U P Y H O Y T Y F A B I R C D U Q M D X K D C E
C X V C A L W T B W L O M S J K F C S D Q A A I
R G Q T W E F T S E H B Y V G E R X E C X Q A Y
I C P A N D T L X P A Y Y K S R Q C B C T O M R
C B J W L I E W S P I K K I L C H R I S T M A S
D A L L E D C T N B R R O V I F J Z Z D I O C F
A A N V W G G E I D N T S W A G N S F A W O V N
D C K U R P K X S M R X I U H G Y O R T I I Z G
B N Z M Q B Q W G O I L I K L M A I T C T G D X
G U Y J F L I H T C K L E V B R G B K H K A D B
G N W V Y R G W Y H D M L O P D K T O Y I M L Y
G K D X O Q E Y H Z E Q L J M N S Z J N D N K Z
S Z Q N A B M V T H Q I N V G Q V F S K D U G C
J I Y R F S A J T A S M C E O U H K A L P G F U
N N E E O E Q D L M U Y Q L R K H T Y Y Y S B V

Magi	Christmas	Jim	tortoise
money	sacrifice	irony	new york
watch	simile	peculiar	hair
theme	nothing	Della	vagabond
symbolism	heirloom	limited	circumstance
possession	personification		

MAY GODS BLESSING SURROUND YOU EACH DAY

AS YOU TRUST HIM AND WALK IN HIS WAY;

MAY HIS PRESENCE WITHIN

GUARD AND KEEP YOU FROM SIN.

GO IN PEACE, GO IN JOY, GO IN LOVE!