

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 6, 2021

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Another Word for Treasure Chest

Those magi traveled a long way, following a star only they understood. They knew that it was a divine epiphany leading them to the beginning of something new: the birth of a good king. They had saved their gold, frankincense, and myrrh for just such a “reigny” day when the reign of God’s peace-bringing ruler would come. These were gifts fit to honor a magnanimous leader, and with great joy they set out to honor Jesus.

We gather to give our praise and honor to Jesus whenever we come together as church to worship, to hear scripture, to sing, and to celebrate at the table of grace. What gifts do we have to offer to honor the good ruler named Jesus? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh are wonderful, but they do not seem to be the right way for us to pay homage.

Matthew tells us those magi opened their treasure chests. The Greek word in the New Testament for “treasure chest” is *thesaurus*. A thesaurus book is so named because it is a “treasure chest” of words. Sometimes you need just the right word to say what is important, or what is on your heart, or what needs a poetic flair. You might want to say that something is beautiful, but a thesaurus helps you say that it is exquisite or stunning.

As we come to worship the newborn king, who is also the crucified and risen Jesus present with us now, we open our own treasure chests, offering praise, thanks, and glory to God. Our songs of praise are our gold. Our prayers of gratitude are our frankincense. Our thanksgiving at the table is our myrrh. Like those traveling magi, we are overwhelmed with joy that we have been guided to this time and place to stop, pay homage, and see the good news right before our eyes.

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