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THE ROTARY

### Gifts Fit For A King

I've always had a hard time buying Christmas gifts. I wanted my gifts to be appreciated by the recipients - and affordable to me! Gift-giving takes a lot of thought. Nor is gift-giving an easy task either!

The gifts the Magi brought to Jesus were equally thoughtful. They brought gifts that "fit" the child's identity. First, **gold**. Storehouses filled with gold were found in royal palaces. Gold was a gift fit for a king.

Second, **incense**, probably the resin of the terebinth tree. This incense was often burned with other spices during temple offerings. It was a gift for a priest.

Third, the gift of **myrrh**. Like incense, myrrh was from an aromatic resin. But it was hardly a gift you gave a child. Myrrh was symbolic of death. At his crucifixion, Jesus would be offered a drink of wine mixed myrrh (Mark 15:23). At his death, Jesus' body would be wrapped in 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes (John 19:39).

The myrrh that the Magi laid before the Christchild, then, was symbolic of an unexpected role. This child would become the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. This child would become the sacrificial lamb led to the slaughter for our redemption.

Have you chosen the gift you'll bring to Jesus this Christmas season? Based on his gift to us, the best gift to bring him is our hearts, offered in humility and love.



2018

**children's PROGRAM**

*The Greatest Story*  
Sunday, December 16th  
6 pm  
*Children/Youth Christmas Reception afterwards*  
Everyone is invited to stay!

**Saturday, Dec. 1st - Ladies & Men Adult Sunday School class Christmas Party from 11 am to 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

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**CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Hosted by:  
Vivian & Sofia Bricker  
**Saturday, Dec. 8th**  
3 pm - 6 pm  
Food, music & games  
Everyone is invited!

*Candle Light Service*

*Sunday, Dec. 23rd at 11am*

### Christmas CD's

The Christmas CD's will begin distribution on Sunday, December 9th. Be sure to place your order by 12/2/18.



Tables will be set up in the Educational Building. Instead of paying for postage, give that amount to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

### The Sounds of Christmas

*It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heavens all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.*

As 2018 draws to a close we are greeted once again by the warmth and joy of the Christmas season. The lights of downtown are adorned with festive lights. Christmas trees stand proudly in our neighbors windows. Decorations adorn our mantels. And we are enveloped in the carols and songs of the season. For Christians this is a most wonderful time of year – the time to celebrate the culmination of hope, the arrival of salvation, the advent of Christ. What a wonderful time of year. Yet, the hope of the season can be blurred. The hustle and bustle of Christmas with all the gifts and parties and family gatherings can turn joy into frustration. The stress of added expenses can turn peace into anxiety. The death of a loved one can turn our love into grief. In this blurring it is important, even vital to pause and hear the Angels sing. Christ has arrived. In the midst of our bustle, in the midst of our anxiousness, in the midst of our grief or anger or pain – Christ has arrived. 2000 years ago the Angels sang a glorious song – the first true song of Christmas. And that same song still rings out every December inviting us to still the bustle around us and quiet our restless hearts as we hear the faint strains of an ancient song proclaiming the Christ child's birth. This December, listen for the sounds of Christmas.

Merry Christmas  
Alex



### Holiday Schedule

- Dec. 2** - Advent starts
- Dec. 2** - Business Meeting at 6:30 pm
- Dec. 16** - Called Business Meeting - 11am after worship service.
- Dec. 16** - Youth & Children lunch and rehearsal at 12 pm.
- Dec. 23** - **No evening activities**
- Dec. 24 & 25** - Church Office Closed
- Dec. 26** - No Adult Bible Study
- Dec. 30** - 5th Sunday Sing
- Jan. 1st** - Church Office Closed

**KBC Jolly Seniors will not meet this month.** They will resume in January!



- 12/1 - David Bailey
- 12/6 - Donna Settle
- 12/8 - Janet Mathis
- 12/12 - Kim Adams
- 12/12 - Mary Nell Mallery
- 12/13 - CJ Cornett
- 12/20 - Betsy Mosteller

### December Greeter:



Taylor Maddry