

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

- ✓ Evensong service is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, Logos Auditorium, 6:00 pm.
- ✓ Heads of Households parish meetings: Usually held the second Tuesday of each month, 8:00 pm, locations to be announced on email.
- ✓ Family Psalm Sing is usually held the third Sunday evening of each month, 6:00-7:00 pm, Logos Auditorium.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ✓ No Sunday School classes are being held at this time.

NURSERY

- ✓ A nursing room is available for mothers only to use in the literature room (Room 2) out the west doors, down the stairs to the main building, first door on the left. If a father needs to take a crying baby or toddler out of the service, he may use the room down the hall next to the storage room. Dads, please don't go into the nursing room. Both rooms are sound wired, so the church service can be heard. Also, the sixth grade classroom is available for parents to use for disciplining their children.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Prayer requests: If you have a prayer request for the Sunday morning service or for the email prayer chain, please call the church office (882-2034) by Friday morning or contact Wes Struble (882-6163) or Ed Iverson (882-4848).
- ✓ Visitor cards are available on the back table. If you're visiting this morning, please fill one out and drop it in the offering box.
- ✓ The elders visit different homes on Tuesday nights, except for the Heads of Households meeting nights. If you'd like to receive a visit from an elder, please contact the office.
- ✓ The deacons fund is for needy families in our church. If you would like to donate toward this cause, please make your check to Christ Church, designating the Deacons Fund. Remember the Christian Education Fund, and the fact that some families are in need. Funds are available, and questions can be referred to the deacons.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 27
Tuesday, December 29
Wednesday, December 30
Thursday, December 31
Friday, January 1

- ✓ Happy New Year!

NEW NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ Church office holiday closure: Dec. 21-Jan. 2.
- ✓ Christ Church service time for January 3, 10, 17: 9:30 am. On January 24, we will resume the two-service schedule: 8:30 and 10:30 am.
- ✓ Winter Feast: Friday, January 22, 6:00-8:30pm, SEL.

COLLEGE MINISTRIES NEWS & EVENTS

Contact Matt Gray- 883-7903 (o), 596-9787 (c)

- ✓ Weekly meeting: Finished for the semester.
- ✓ College Girls Inductive Bible Studies: Cancelled for Christmas Break.
- ✓ NSA/UI/WSU Men's Bible Studies: Cancelled for Christmas Break.
- ✓ UI Guys' Study: Cancelled for Christmas Break.

CHRIST CHURCH

Lord's Day Service - 1st Sunday of Christmas - December 27, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION & PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP - God Summons His People

V SCRIPTURE READING OF PRAISE

Minister: The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who are in awe of Him.

Congregation: He will hear their cry and save them. Amen.

Also He brought me by the way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord; and I fell on my face (Ezekiel 44:4).

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord!

V PRAYER OF PRAISE

V CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Come, All Ye Faithful.....243 (243)

CONFESSION - God Cleanses His People

EXHORTATION

SCRIPTURE READING OF CONFESSION

Congregation is invited to kneel if able

"Now say to the rebellious, to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God: "O house of Israel, let us have no more of all your abominations" (Ezekiel 44:6)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be

My people and I will be your God (Ezekiel 36:25-28).

Minister: Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

V CONFESSION OF FAITH

CHRISTIAN, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?
 APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hades. On the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

V HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Does merely the outward washing with water itself wash away sins?..... Q. 72 (74)

No; for only the blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

Then why does the Holy Spirit call baptism the water of rebirth and the washing away of sins?..... Q. 73

God does not speak in this way except for a strong reason. Not only does he teach us by Baptism that just as the dirt of the body is taken away by water, so our sins are removed by the blood and Spirit of Christ; but more important still, by the divine pledge and sign he wishes to assure us that we are just as truly washed from our sins spiritually as our bodies are washed with water.

V Good Christian Men, Rejoice.....238 (374)

Christ Church - 205 E. 5th St, Moscow, ID - 208.882.2034 - office@christkirk.com

Elders:

Bill Church
 Dale Courtney
 John Grauke
 Matt Gray
 John Howell

Ed Iverson
 Mike Lawyer
 Csaba
 Leidenfrost
 Jim Nance

Ralph Plaza
 John Sawyer
 Wes Struble
 Matt Whitling
 Douglas Wilson

Gordon Wilson
 Fred Kohl

Deacons:

Eric Burnett
 John Carnahan
 Andrew
 Crapuchettes
 Tom Garfield

Joe Myers
 Rusty Olps
 Marc Rust
 Marc Wintz

CONSECRATION - God Equips & Prepares His People

V READING THE UNIVERSAL WORD

This week: Isaiah 7:10-17 & Matthew 1:18-25

Next week: Zechariah 2:8-13 & 2 John 4-11

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come.....240 (266)

OPENING PRAYER

I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward (Ezekiel 39:21-22).

THANKSGIVING

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence (Psalm 140:13).

PETITIONS

... then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You (2 Chronicles 6:39).

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

V *Silent Night, Holy Night.....245* (234-35)

PREACHING OF THE PARTICULAR WORD

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Message: The Wise Men and the Nations

Concluding prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer **411**

MEDITATION

Offertory.....250 v. 3 (251 v. 3)

V *Angels We Have Heard on High.....230* (230)

COMMUNION - God Nourishes His People

THE BREAD & WINE

O Little Town of Bethlehem.....244 Forest Green (241)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.....236-237 (236-37)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE— **AMEN**

COMMISSIONING - God Blesses & Sends His People

The congregation may raise hands

V CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri.....225 v. 6 ()

CHARGE & BLESSING

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph. 3:20-21).

THANKSGIVING — FOR...

- ✓ Our ability to work and our provision through it.
 - ✓ The ministry of Trinity Church of Tri-Cities of Richland, WA and for Donald Van Dyken.
 - ✓ The birth of Charles Luther Griffith to Tim and Casey.
- NEW REQUESTS, PRAY FOR:
- ✓ Christians who are persecuted in other countries, especially in Pakistan.
 - ✓ The President of the United States, that his office would be established in righteousness.
 - ✓ Grace Bible Church: Pastor Ron McMurray. Please pray for Ron's wife and her continued health as she recovers from cancer. As it is just this time of year for all college students, prayer for their safe travel to and from home during Christmas break. Also pray for Dale, who is deployed in the Navy, that God would protect and strengthen him during this deployment.

REQUESTS FROM DECEMBER 20, 2009

- ✓ Christians who are persecuted in other countries, especially in Indonesia.
- ✓ The United States Congress.
- ✓ Christian Life Center and Pastor Dan Johnson. Pray for their students traveling home for the holidays. Pray for their Christmas service this Sunday the 20th. Pray for Pastor Dan's busy schedule.

CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS

- ✓ The Christ Church and Trinity Reformed Church expectant mothers: December-Katie Nuttbrock, Jennifer Bunch; January- Nancy Jacobs, Heather Wilson, Ruth Hill; February-Amber Myers, Jenny Story, Ashley Antkowiak; March-Lindsey Tollefson, Katie Grauke, Alberta Arrick, Beth Peterson; April-Rachel Jankovic, Mary Dowers; May-Kristen Telling, Emily Bartlett, Alexis Stevenson, Brooke Newman; June-Melissa Breese.
- ✓ Other expectant mothers who don't attend either church or have moved but are connected to the churches in some way through family members, etc.: December-Hannah Griffith; January-Christine Creason; May-Natali Rose (Greenfield); June-Elizabeth Nieuwsma.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

- ✓ Ian Bloomsburg, as he serves in the U.S. Army in New York; Mike Fenimore as he serves in Germany; Kelly VanNuland, Sam Kimmell in the U.S. Navy in Spain; Daniel Klier in the Marines; Nate Atwood; Chilton Williams in the Navy on the USS Enterprise.
 - ✓ The unmarried men and women in the church.
 - ✓ CRF, *Credenda*, Canon Press, and the church mission plants.
 - ✓ Education: NSA, Logos School, Montrose Academy, ACCS, Pullman Christian School, UI, WSU, LCSC.
 - ✓ Eddie Gray, Jr., James Denham, Heather Casebolt Teston, Neil (Ray) Crawford, Emily Peterson, Jerry Langreder.
 - ✓ Repentance of sin and salvation for Jon LaMoreaux and Daniel Miller.
 - ✓ Pray for Douglas Wilson and the Christ Church elders as they seek to serve God in leading the church.
 - ✓ Parents as they educate their children.
 - ✓ Upcoming marriages of Justin Spencer to Emily Gray (12/29), Timothy Van den Broek to Anna Davy. (12/30), Skyler Hoelt to Chelsey Bowes (1/1/10), Jordan Leithart to Jamie Van Till (1/9/10), Brad Belschner to Sara Field (1/23/10), Isaiah Eyre to Leia Thomas (5/22/10), Drew Hicks to Samantha Ricketts (6/5/10), Paden Blythe to Jasmine Ewert (6/5/10), Eric Mabry to Hannah Benton, CJ Bowen to Lisa Jackson.
 - ✓ Pray for the Greyfriars' Hall students.
 - ✓ Complete healing for Billy Amos, Evangeline Anderson, Betty Appel, Fran Atwood, Paige Atwood, Arie DeWinkle, Julie Garfield, Emmaline Handel, Lizzie Klier, Fred Kohl, Lisa Leidenfrost, Brady, Erin, and Sherry McIntosh, Brian Nuttbrock, Beza Qualls, Kalkidan Qualls, Lisa Qualls, Don Quist, Cecily Rathbun, Michelle Roise, Daniel Rosendahl, Nancy Rust, Morgan Schlect, Nesradine Schumaker, Layla Shaw, Andrew Stafford, Tovia Sumpter, Bessie Wilson.
 - ✓ Colleen McGarry, who is working with Servant Group, Int'l. in northern Iraq.
- STANDING PRAYER REQUESTS — PRAY FOR...
- ✓ Cultural stability, that we might live quiet and peaceable lives.
 - ✓ State and local authorities as well as UI/WSU/NSA Presidents.
 - ✓ The Bakwe' in the Ivory Coast and for stability and peace in the country.
 - ✓ Reformation and revival in the church.

“MAY I COME TO THE LORD’S TABLE?”

The Lord's Supper is observed every Lord's Day at Christ Church. We warmly invite to the Lord's table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. You also acknowledge to the elders of this congregation that you are in covenant with God, being active in a congregation which is covenantally bound to the triune God through Word and sacrament. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to the elders before or after the service.

THE WISE MEN AND THE NATIONS

INTRODUCTION:

This part of the Christmas story is not a stand alone story. In the narrative, we find a type of how all the rulers of this world will eventually come to kiss the Son.

THE TEXT:

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. . . . When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way” (Matt. 2:1-3, 9-12).

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT:

After the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, certain wise men from the east appeared in Jerusalem (v. 1), and they were looking for Him (v. 2). The one they were looking for was King of the Jews because they had seen His star in the east, and intended to worship Him (v. 2). Herod heard about this and he was troubled, along with all Jerusalem (v. 3). After Herod gets some information from his rabbis, he deceitfully sends the wise men on their way. After they left Herod's presence, the star they had seen back home led them to the right house in Bethlehem (v. 9). Seeing the star gave them great joy (v. 10). They came to the house (not the stable) where they saw the young Jesus along with Mary, His mother (v. 11). From the age of the boys murdered by Herod, we can infer that the wise men arrived sometime within two years of Christ's birth. They fell down and worshipped Him, and presented their famous and costly gifts—gold, frankincense and myrrh. We don't know there were three wise men, this being simply an inference from these three gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream, and so they went home by another route (v. 12).

WE THREE KINGS:

Now these men are not described as kings, but there are good reasons for treating them as members of the ruling aristocracy, as men who could decide to go to visit a king. First, in the Old Testament, this kind of person was frequently found at court (magi, wise men). Second, these men were dignitaries of sufficient rank to have their questions attract the attention of a king, and to be

summoned to his court. Third, their gifts to the young Christ were kingly gifts—the kind of gift that kings would receive from princes. Fourth, the text draws attention to a comparison between their eagerness to worship Christ, and Herod's false willingness to do so. Fifth, not only did God want the reader of Matthew to know that a king was born in Bethlehem, God wanted Herod to know that a king had been born there. And He wanted him to know it on the kind of authority that he would accept.

FORESHADOWING:

So what is this story doing here? The clear intent is to show us that Christ is a king, and He is the kind of king who receives legitimate worship from nobles. This is a proleptic story, meaning that it is prophetic. If the toddler Jesus receives this kind of honor, what will He receive later? He receives hostility at the beginning (from Herod) and He receives prostrate worship from Gentile noblemen at the beginning. This is an *a fortiori* situation, and which one will win out?

HONOR AND GLORY:

Paul says that God wants all kinds of men to saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). This “all kinds of” includes kings and those in authority (1 Tim. 2:2). In this matter, Paul practiced what he preached. When he had opportunity to present the gospel to kings and rulers, he did so (Acts 26:28). Kings are told to kiss the Son, lest He be angry (Ps. 2:12). While we are to fear both God and the king (Prov. 24:21), the king is to fear God particularly (Dt. 17:18).

But sin being what it is, this is not something that kings like to do. The gospel being as powerful as it is, however, means that the kings of the earth will come. They all will bring their honor and glory into the Church (Rev. 21:24, 26). They do become nursing fathers to the Church (Is. 49:23), submitting themselves to the Church, and being disciplined by the Church. The phrase “nursing fathers” can be misleading; making us think the Church is somehow subordinate to the State—which is the opposite of what the passage says. In the restoration of Israel's fortunes that is the Church, what does it say? “And kings shall be thy nursing fathers [lit. nourishers], and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.” The leaves on the tree of life are for the healing of the nations, and they cannot be applied without the nations actually getting better (Rev. 22:2).

TRIBUTE AND AUTHORITY:

There are two ways to give. One is an act of authority and the other is an act of submission. There are two ways to receive—and not surprisingly, one is an act of authority and the other is an act of submission. Telling the two of them apart is perfectly clear for the humble, and opaque to the proud. Were the wise men placing Jesus and Mary in their debt with these very expensive gifts? Or were they showing their indebtedness? When our federal government today cuts a check, are they exercising authority or showing submission? This is not a hard question.

This story right at the beginning of Christ's life shows us the pattern that we should expect and require. Christ will not receive (and His Church must not receive) any money whatever from the state unless it is accompanied by prostration before Christ and true worship of Him.