

Children and family talk for 3rd January 2021

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.
Happy New year!

Welcome back to church this year, (to the tune the wheels on the bus)
church this year, church this year.
Welcome back to church this year,
we're glad to have you here.

Let's start our worship by talking to God:

Dear God, as we start this new year, we are uncertain about what we will face, what will the year 2021 bring us, we just don't know. Only you know what the future will bring. We put ourselves into your hands, knowing that if we listen to you Lord, you can guide us. Help us to do this now as we hear your word and learn more about you. Thankyou Lord God. Amen

Our Bible reading today is from Matthew 2.1-12

Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem when Herod was king in Jerusalem. One day, wise men from eastern lands came to speak to Herod, asking 'Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We have followed the Birth Star all the way here. We have come to worship him.' Herod was frightened when he heard this and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of all the wise and religious scholars to find out where this Messiah was to be born. 'The prophet Micah wrote that it was to be Bethlehem,' they told him. Herod met again with the wise men, in secret. He found out more about their learning and in turn told them to go and search for the newborn King in Bethlehem. Herod also asked the wise men to come back to him and tell him exactly where the baby was to be found, 'So that I too may worship him.' So, the wise men set off again, following the same star, and it led them to Bethlehem, right to the Christchild. When they entered the place where the child and his mother Mary were, their hearts were overwhelmed with joy. The wise men knelt down before him and worshipped indeed. Then they offered their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But when it was time for them to leave, the wise men went home by a different route, because God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Stop and share

- Messiah means the 'anointed one', someone chosen by God to save the Jewish people, it's a title for Jesus.
- Micah was a prophet who wrote down messages from God, a long time ago about the promised Messiah.
- When did the wise men receive some direction from God?
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Let's praise God now as we sing: As the deer pants for the water

As the deer pants for the water,
So, my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.

I want you more than gold or silver,
Only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy – giver
And the apple of my eye.

Chorus

I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything.

You're my friend and You are my
brother,
Even though You are a King.

Chorus.

Let's talk about the bible reading:

In our reading today, we hear about the wise men who were searching for 'the New born King of the Jews'. They followed a star which seemed to lead them to King Herod. King Herod was not the King they were looking for and he was also not a nice King. In fact, he was very horrid. If King Herod had found baby Jesus, then baby Jesus would have been in real danger.

Sometimes we get led the wrong way and things start to go wrong for us. Maybe, at the time it seems like the right way, just as the wise men followed the star and it appeared to lead them to King Herod. It's often when we're not paying attention that we can go the wrong direction. I think the wise men thought to themselves, "Well we don't need to follow the star anymore as we know a King would be born in a palace, such as King Herod's" They didn't realise that the star was still moving perhaps. Sometimes we rely on our own judgement too much and stop listening to good advice. God can talk to us in all sorts of ways, just as he spoke to the wise men through the stars and visited them in their dreams to warn them not to go back to King Herod.

That's why we need to learn to listen to God, by reading our bibles, talking to God in prayer and listening to good advice from people we trust. This year let's try to follow Jesus, and read our bibles more often as we seek to find Jesus just as the wise men did, and to give him the things we have to offer.

And we pray:

Lord God, thank you for this message that the wise men gave us, help us to follow you, and not to go our own way. Help us to listen to good advice and to know when it is good advice. We thank you for the new year ahead of us. Keep us safe in your name, Amen.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's sheet from Roots:

[3rd-january-2021-activity-sheet.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/3rd-january-2021-activity-sheet.pdf)