

Children and family talk for 5th December 2021

Good morning, its lovely to have you with me as we praise God and learn more from the Bible together. This week is the second Sunday in Advent. I hope you will join me every week in the lead up to Christmas for part of the Christmas story.

Our reading today is from Matthew 2 verses 1-12."

Wise Men Come to Visit Jesus

2 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. **2** They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. **4** Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. **5** They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are important among the rulers of Judah.

A ruler will come from you.

He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.'" *Micah 5:2*

7 Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. **8** Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too."

9 The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. **10** When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. **11** They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

Now let's sing this traditional and beautiful carol, join in with me if you can; **We three kings of orient are**

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we travel 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 the perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,

King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb.

Chorus

Chorus

Frankincense for Jesus have I,
God on earth yet Priest on high;
Prayer and praising all men raising:
Worship is earth's reply.

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heaven sings our 'Alleluia!'
'Amen' the earth replies.

Chorus

Chorus.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
Tells of His death and Calvary's gloom;

Copyright: J.H. Hopkins (1820-91) MP 740, JP 271
CCLI license number 63352

I'm going to show you how to do the craft activity to make a slide viewer.

You will need:

- The box your advent activities came in or a cardboard box such as a cereal box.
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- The acetate slide from your envelopes.

What to do:

1. Cut out the advent viewer from the box.
2. Fold on the given fold lines
3. Glue or tape as required.
4. Insert your acetate slides to view after you open each envelope each week!

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus, but we don't need to do that do we? They had lots of distractions on the way, they visited King Herod, who couldn't help them to find Jesus and then they followed the star to a poor tiny stable where they eventually found Jesus. How will you find Jesus this Christmas? Are you coming to one of our special Christmas services, or will you view them online? Perhaps you will set up your own Christmas story for your family to enjoy, I used to use all my teddies and dolls and dress them up to make a nativity scene under the tree. Perhaps this is something you could do.

Let's talk to God now;

Awesome God,

We continue to count down the days until Jesus' birthday celebration. Help us to find Jesus in the excitement, in the wrapping paper, Christmas trees and decorations, and worship you.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Below is the link for the advent box.

[Come & See Advent box \(urc.org.uk\)](http://urc.org.uk)