

SOUL FOOD
November December 2018



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given

The wise men's unique gifts have they lost their meaning to many today? What are they all about?

In the Christmas story we see the integrity of Joseph, the innocence of Mary, the responsiveness of the shepherds, and the perseverance of the wise men. We hear the words of the angels to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Personally we may be thinking, "When will I have the integrity, willingness, perseverance, responsiveness and peace described here?" The answer is, when we take aim and set foot on the journey – the most important journey of our existence, our spiritual journey. The Word of God is all about journeys – and ultimately it teaches us about our inner journey from self-centeredness and negative attitudes to possessing positive qualities from the Lord.

One specific journey in the Word is the wise men's journey to visit the infant Messiah. A common question we may have about this journey is, "Why did they bring such unusual gifts? What use did these gifts have to the Lord as a baby?"

The wise men presented the Lord with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for a reason. Symbolically, these treasures picture what we must offer to the Lord in order to attain spiritual life. The meanings of these gifts are described in the teachings for the New Church.

Gold symbolizes love, or the commitment in our hearts to love the Lord. Loving the Lord means to love others and to approach them with kindness, compassion, hope for their happiness, and a desire to contribute to that happiness.

Frankincense symbolizes devoting our thoughts to the Lord, only entertaining thoughts that would be in sync with the attitudes pictured by our gold offering.

The final gift, **myrrh**, symbolizes **doing what the Word teaches**. It is about our conduct – the way we live. Gifts of only gold and frankincense are not enough. Good intentions and good feelings are nothing if we do not attempt to manifest them in our outward life.

Each of us is on a journey. It is important to know that the Lord is with us on our journey, working to inspire us and lead us to lasting happiness. **The more we can offer Him our love, our thoughts, and our life, the better He can lead us to fulfilment and joy.** (Excerpt from "Connections")

The Lord will not be born on earth again.

"The reason he will not be appearing in person is that ever since he ascended into heaven, he has been in his glorified human manifestation. In this he cannot appear before any human beings unless he has first opened the eyes of their spirit. The eyes of the spirit cannot be opened in people who are engaged in evils and falsities – in any of the goats, whom he placed on his left [Matthew 25:33]. Therefore whenever he showed himself to his disciples, he first opened their eyes. We read, "And their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he became invisible to them" (Luke 24:31). A similar thing happened with the women who were by his tomb after he had risen; this is why they were able to see angels sitting in the tomb and hear them speaking with them. No one can see angels through physical eyes. Even

*before the Lord rose, it was not the apostles' physical eyes but their spiritual eyes that saw the Lord in his glorified human manifestation; after they came out of that state, they appeared to themselves to have been asleep. This is clear from the Lord's transfiguration in the presence of Peter, James, and John and the fact that they were then "heavy with sleep" (Luke 9:32). Therefore it is foolish to believe that the Lord is going to appear in person in a cloud of heaven; instead He is going to appear in the Word, since **the Word is from Him, and He is the Word.**"—
True Christianity 777*

*May we all share the joy and peace of
Christmas with our families and loved ones.*



Birthdays: November: Miles 4th, John D 27, Deb 27th,

December: Erin 14th Val 16th, Heidi 19th.

Offertories: Direct Deposits. Please consider giving ONLINE Donations on a regular basis from each family. It would be very gratefully received. (See back page)

Venue Change

*On the second and fourth Sunday of each month worship will be held at **13 Cathedral Link, Aubin Grove***

Pastoral visit November 16,17,18

<i>Fri 16 Nov</i>	<i>Todd arrives 10:30am</i>	<i>Visits elderly members</i>
	<i>4pm class</i>	<i>Dome :Maylands 219 Railway parade (end of Eighth Ave)</i>
	<i>5:30pm meal</i>	<i>Rose and Crown</i>
<i>Sat 17 Nov</i>	<i>10:30 am Class</i>	<i>Dome :Belmont 237 Knutsford Ave Cloverdale</i>
	<i>12:30 shared meal then class 1:30pm 3pm business meeting</i>	<i>13 Cathedral Ave</i>
<i>Sun 18 Nov</i>	<i>10:30am Worship and Holy Communion</i>	<i>Environmental Centre, end of Groat St, N Beach</i>
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>NOVEMBER</i>	
<i>Sun 4 Nov</i>	<i>10:30am Worship with Holy Communion shared meal to follow</i>	<i>Environmental Centre, end of Groat St, N Beach</i>
<i>Sun 11 Nov</i>	<i>9am Logo Praxis 10:30 am Worship</i>	<i>13 Cathedral Link Aubin Grove</i>
<i>Sun 18th</i>	<i>10:30am Worship and Holy Communion</i>	<i>Environmental Centre, end of Groat St, N Beach</i>
<i>Sun 25th</i>	<i>9am Logo Praxis 10:30 am Worship</i>	<i>13 Cathedral Link Aubin Grove</i>
	<i>DECEMBER</i>	
<i>Sun Dec 2nd</i>	<i>10:30am Worship</i>	<i>Environmental Centre, end of Groat St, N Beach</i>
<i>Sun 9 Dec</i>	<i>9am Logo Praxis 10:30 am Worship</i>	<i>13 Cathedral Link Aubin Grove</i>
<i>Sun 16 Dec</i>	<i>10:30am Worship</i>	<i>Environmental Centre, end of Groat St, N Beach</i>
<i>Sun 23 Dec</i>	<i>9am Logo Praxis 10:30 am Worship</i>	<i>13 Cathedral Link Aubin Grove</i>

***We are all created to become angels of Heaven
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

***Worship: 10:30am on the **Second and Fourth**
Sundays with **Godly Play** for children***

Venue: 13 Cathedral Link Aubin Grove

www.newchurch.org

Book orders: 0407 448405

ONLINE donations Westpac

Church: BSB 036-302: ACC 189720

Godly Play: BSB 036-019 ACC 258487

Starting Over Support BSB 036-019 ACC 230169