

The Visit of the Wise Men

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Boucher



MEMORY VERSE—"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."—Isaiah 60:1, 3.

Herod, already troubled by the arrival and inquiries of the Wise Men, becomes frantic when told of an ancient prophecy that the King of the Jews will be born in nearby Bethlehem.—Matthew 2:16.

When the Magi fail to return, Herod furiously sends soldiers to Bethlehem with orders to slay all male children under age two. Warned by an angel, the Holy Family flees to Egypt.—Matthew 2:13.

Christmas Is Season of Tenderness, Drama

By CARDINAL McGUIGHAN
We are now in the Christmas season, a time of beauty, tenderness and drama, a time rich in grace for the soul. Nature's annual cycle is characterized by a rebirth within the light and life of the darkness of night comes light; out of death comes life.

The transition from night to light characterizes the winter season; the transition from death to life is proper to summer.

The liturgical year of the Church is likewise divided into two phases which have similar characteristics. Its winter phase, the Christmas cycle is ruled by the light symbol. Its three great feasts, Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas and feasts of light.

The longing and expectancy of Advent are feelings familiar to the heart of man. And the story of Jesus' infancy, together with the shepherds within the Christian family, make this season the most attractive of the year.

But the liturgy would have us see beyond accidents. What are we celebrating at Christmas? Christ's coming! Advent means "coming". But which coming are we celebrating?

His COMINGS
We know there are three comings: the first in the flesh as man, the second in majesty and glory on the last day, the third in grace.

Of the last one, Christ said: "Whoever loves Me will keep My word and My Father will love Him and We will come to him and make Our abode with him and be with him forever and ever."

In modern times, the commemoration of Our Saviour's birth has become the main theme of the Christmas season. The dominant event of the whole season is Christ's first coming in the flesh.

It is a special sign of God's goodness and love that He promises the work of our salvation into a very human framework. The Redeemer was to be a child of man subject to the exigencies of the natural order.

HEROD TROUBLED

Ancient Prophecy Reveals Birth

(Editor's note—The following material relating to tomorrow's Sunday school lesson is based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches in the U.S. and is used by permission.)
By R.H. RAMSEY
The particular event assigned to today's lesson must have occurred some time after the visit of the shepherds to the manger, for there is no indication that the Wise Men found the holy family in that humble place.

Perhaps they had been given more suitable lodging by that time. The Wise Men were of that class of magi who devoted their lives to the pursuit of scientific truth and astronomy. Where they lived, we do not know exactly, but presumably they were Babylonians. While we normally speak of the three Wise Men, there is no indication in Matthew's account of the exact number, only that three major gifts were presented to the Christ Child. Matthew 2:2 is a fascinating

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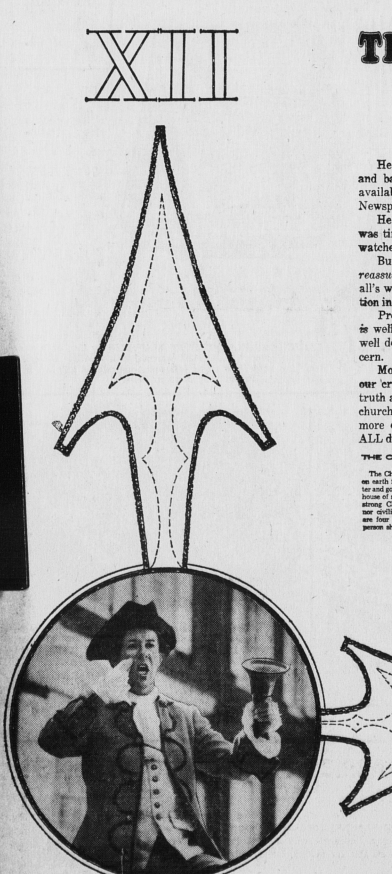
Their inquiries in Jerusalem came to the attention of Herod who was exceedingly suspicious of all who were even supposed to be rivals for his throne. Having little acquaintance with the Old Testament prophets, Herod called in men who knew the sacred writings well and put the Wise Men's questions to them. Turning to the book of Micah, they repeated his prophecy made 700 years previous (Micah 5:2).

If Herod was troubled by the Wise Men's questions, he became doubly troubled on learning that, according to ancient prophecy, he who was to be King of the Jews would be born in the little town of Bethlehem, just five miles south of Jerusalem. He sent the Wise Men on their way with orders to return and tell him of the infant King

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so that "he might also go and worship him."
Once more on their journey, the Wise Men again found the star guiding them directly to Bethlehem and the house where the young child lay. There is tremendous significance in the fact that these Wise Men, in following down the star, did not worship the mother, nor the mother and child; they "worshiped him." In all the Scriptures there is no hint that any of the Three Persons of the Trinity chose to be worshipped.
Now the Wise Men presented their symbolic gifts: frankincense, the symbol of divinity, was offered to the Son of God; myrrh to the son of Mary, who as a man, was subject to mortality; and the gold to the Son of David, the King of Israel.



THE TOWN CRIB

He used to be the bearer of news—both good and bad. And he announced the merchandise available in the various places of business. Newspapers have long since replaced him.

He would cry the hour night and day for he was timekeeper to the town. Clocks and wrist-watches crowded him out of our life.

But when he announced the hour he faked to reassure his neighbors: "It's three o'clock—and all's well!" Why has no one taken up this function in our modern world?

Probably because no one is certain that all is well. And because merely saying that all is well doesn't calm our fears or lighten our concern.

More and more we are coming to realize that our crucial need is spiritual. Men are seeking truth and power in the faith and worship of our churches. With each passing hour it becomes more evident that all will be well only when ALL discover God.

The Church for all... ALL FOR THE CHURCH
The Church is the greatest factor we search for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake; (2) For his children's sake; (3) For the sake of his community and the world; (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and support the Church.

SPRING PARK UNITED CHURCH

Dunkirk & Kirkwood
Rev. Clayton C. Lewis, Minister
Organist: Mrs. Ren H. Atkinson
Director: Mr. Roy M. Smallman
9:30 a.m.—Sunday Church School
11:00 a.m.—Nursery
11:00 a.m.—"I AM THE WAY"
Congregational Carol Sing Song
"You are Welcome to Worship"

Central Christian Church

218 Kent Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
MORNING
10:00 a.m.—Bible School for all ages
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service with Communion
Message: "THE GLORY THAT SHOULD FOLLOW"
Choir: "The Snow Lay on the Ground" (Somerset)

Zion Presbyterian Church

Corner Prince and Gratton Streets
The Rev. Donald A. Campbell, B.A., Minister
Miss Roberta Shaw, Deaconess
Mrs. Harvey Macdonald, M.M.S., Organist and Choir Director.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School, Classes for all ages.
10:00 a.m.—Bible Class, 11:00 a.m. Nursery School
11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP
Sermon: THE CONTENTS OF A BOX
Solo: Select the Christ who gave us Christmas and the millions who know neither this joyous nor sorrowful Christmas whose birth it commemorates.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Charlottetown, P. E. I.
Minister: Rev. John G. E. Ball, B.A., D.D.
Rev. Gerald G. Wyrras, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mrs. G. Ethel Full, F.T.C.L.
Director: Mrs. David Hall, B.A., A.C.T.C.
9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes, Intermediate and Junior Depts.
11:00 a.m.—Nursery, Primary and Kindergarten
11:00 a.m.—"THE OTHER WISE MAN" (Rev. J. G. E. Ball)
Director: Junice Cooper
7:00 p.m.—"THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH"
—Rev. Gerald G. Wyrras
Senior Choir
"Come As You Please and Sit Where You Please"

Advertisement for 'THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE' listing various churches and their services.

Advertisement for '7 Churches Will Share Pavilion' listing churches and their services.

St. John's Anglican Church

ST. JOHN A. E. (CHRISTMAS D)
8:45 a.m.—THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
9:30 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL; Primary, Junior, Senior and Bible Classes.
11:00 a.m.—MORNING PRAYER & SERMON
Subject: "THE GREATEST POWER IN THE UNIVERSE"
Anthem: "Hark What Mean These Holy Voices" sung by Junior & Senior Choirs
7:00 p.m.—CANDLELIGHT & CHRISTMAS CAROL
Special Scripture Readings, Choir Anthems, and Congregational Carol Singing
NEW YEAR'S DAY
10:30 a.m.—HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE (Chapel)
A cordial and very warm welcome awaits you at St. Paul's

The Kirk of St. James

The Reverend T. H. B. Somers, M.A., S.T.M., Minister
Organist and Director of the Choir
Christopher Gledhill, M.A., B.Mus., A.R.C.C.O.
9:45 a.m.—Church School and Minister's Bible Class
11:00 a.m.—Church Service and Nursery School
11:00 a.m.—DIVINE SERVICE AND SERMON: "A SAINT WHO LIVED THE SAY-IT-TO-YOU BY THE REVEREND ROPES A. HOWARD, B.A., B.D."
Anthem: "Lead me, Lord" (S. Wesley)
"FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION HATH APPEARED TO ALL MEN."

an Advent group the Our Father, which serves for all time and for all men in this prayer. Christ says "Thy Kingdom come."

Joey Planning 10 Days In Sun

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP) — Looking well but a bit worn Premier Smallwood told newsmen here: "I am tired & have overdone it. On Monday I am going to take my first vacation in 12 months."
The energetic premier, who was 64 Thursday, said he has never felt better but, "I haven't felt so tired in years. I am well but I just don't have the bounce." He said he and his wife will spend 10 days in Nassau.

COMING AGAIN

Some persons wonder how we can "avail the Lord" in the "flow" some Christians ask: "are we to await the Lord when the Church never loses sight of it. Continually, she places before us the beautiful picture of the Mother with her Child."

"I am just going to lie in the sun. I don't want any of you calling me," he said. "Even if you do call, you won't get me because my phone won't be listed."

"However," he said with a grin. "I will have someone call me often to let me know if it is snowing in Newfoundland. I don't want to be able to enjoy Nassau sun more."

Charlottetown Bible Chapel

233 Cumberland St., at Longworth Ave.
11:00 a.m.—Adult Service and Sunday School
7:00 p.m.—Sunday School Christmas Program
(Please note time change)

The Salvation Army

"Home of Evangelism Since 1865"
Great George Street
55 Villa Avenue Major Ronald H. Walker
Sunday: Directory Class—9:30 a.m.
Sunday School—10 a.m.
Holiness Meeting—11 a.m.
Salvation Army Christmas Party
Friday: Young People's Hobby Class—4:15 p.m.
A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT THE ARMY"

CALVARY TEMPLE

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
Upper Church Street
Rev. C. K. Benn, Pastor
L. Perry, Assistant Pastor

9:15 a.m.—Radio Broadcast, Summerside Station
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & Family
11:00 a.m.—Worship, Subject: "AN OPEN DOOR"
7:30 p.m.—Evangelistic Rally, Pastor's Subject: "CITIZEN YOU FITS DAY FROM YE SERV!"
ATTEND CHARLOTTETOWN'S FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

St. Peter's Cathedral

Rochford Square
Anglican Church of Canada
The Ven. Archdeacon J. R. Davies, M.A., Rector
The Reverend Canon E. M. Malton, M.A., D.D., Honorary Assistant Priest
Miss Suzanne Brenton, Lic. Mus., Organist
Mrs. B. W. Patterson, Choir Director
Dec. 27—St. John the Evangelist and the Sunday after Christmas Day
8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (No Sunday school)
8:45 a.m.—Matins
11:00 a.m.—Eucharist & Choral Eucharist
7:00 p.m.—Evensong, Carols, Procecion, Solemn Te Deum
Visitors are most welcome at all services.

First Baptist Church

Corner of Prince and Fitzroy Streets
Rev. Malcolm F. Harlow, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mrs. V. L. Dingwell, Organist and Choir Director
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m.—Sermon: "AFTER CHRISTMAS"
Solo: "O Holy Night"
Solo: Ronald Jenkins
7:00 p.m.—Student Recognition Service
Sermon: "SWEET WAS HE CARED?"
Lic. Richard Coffin
Anthem: "Lift Softly Snowflakes"
A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

PARK ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

13 Christie Drive, Parkdale
Rev. J. H. Tye, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mr. Leslie Hiscott, Organist and Director of Choirs
9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate & Senior Church School
11:00 a.m.—Nursery & Kindergarten Classes
11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP
Sermon: FORGIVENESS—NOW TO FORGIVE
Anthem: "Sweet Was the Song the Virgin Sang"
—Florence Bittelife
11:15 a.m.—Primary Church School
7:00 p.m.—EVENING WORSHIP
Sermon: OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR
Solo: "The Christmas Carol"
"O Little One Sweet" (German Carol)
"Shoppers' Sleep Off Your Drowsy Sleep" (Deutsche Carol)
"Rocking Carol" (Czech Carol)
Candidates for the German Ministry (Elizabeth Davies and Ronald Maud) will assist.
You are welcome to worship with us.

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Established 1789 by Royal Foundation
The Rev. F. Louis Ellis, L.B.T., Rector
Organist: Rev. John D.
George A. Thompson, F.R.C.O., (CIBM) A.R.C.M.
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