



## HYMN OF THE MONTH JANUARY 2018

Epiphany is the season of the church year from January 6 to Ash Wednesday. "It marks the time that the Christ Child was revealed to the wise men in His first manifestation to the Gentiles as the Light of the whole world." (Kenneth Osbeck) Modern historians believe that there were "Wise Men" (astrologers) who came from Mesopotamia, seeking a new King as foretold by unusual events in the night sky. Such an event took place in 7 B.C. when Saturn, Mars and Jupiter appeared very close together in the constellation of Pisces. (Because of revisions in the calendar, historians now believe that Jesus was born seven years before the beginning of the Christian era.) Perhaps the coincidence of planets was the star that led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. (Dan Fox)

In 1858, William C. Dix wrote the hymn, "As With Gladness Men of Old" while recuperating from an illness. Having read the scripture of the day, Matthew 2:1-12, which is the story of the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, he thought about its message and before the day was over he had written the words to this hymn. Dix was ill for an extended period of time and wrote several hymns in this fashion including "What Child is This."

William Dix used the As...so... technique, frequently used in the Bible, to make comparisons in order to provide insight and understanding in this hymn of Epiphany.

"Vs.1: As the wise men were led to the feet of Christ, so may we be led to Him. They followed a supernatural star. In our case, we are prompted by the Spirit of God. First of all convicted of our sin, and led to Christ for salvation. Then, as believers, led day by day, into fellowship with Him, by that same Holy Spirit.

Vs.2 continues the theme by describing the joyful mood of the wise men, as they envisioned the fulfillment of their quest (Matt. 2:10), with Dix urging us to seek the place of prayer with the same enthusiasm.

Vs.3 deals with the gifts of the wise men. In a similar manner, we are exhorted to come with holy joy, and present ourselves as His willing servants (Rom. 12:1; II Cor. 8:5), and then to lay before Him our time, our talents and our treasures, putting them at His disposal."

The final two stanzas of the hymn point us forward to the day when we stand in the presence of Christ, worshiping and praising Him for all eternity." (Wordwise Hymns written by Robert Cottrill) An early form of the tune DIX was composed by Conrad Kocher. William H. Monk created the current form of DIX by revising and shortening Conrad Kocher's melody. Monk's tune was published with Dix's text in the 1861 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, of which Monk was music editor. This tune is also used for the hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth."

The significance of the story is that the Magi were Gentiles. The story of Epiphany is a reminder that God wants not only our worship but also our willingness to share His message with others. "May we be challenged to share God's love both by word and deed with those He brings into our lives each day." (Kenneth Osbeck)

Sources: Amazing Grace by Kenneth W. Osbeck; Classic Christmas Carols and Songs by Dan Fox; Hymnary.org; Sermonwriter.com; Wordwise Hymns by Robert Cottrill.

**Community Christian Church  
2018 Pledge Card**

**The Board of Community Christian Church, as your elected leaders of the church, has adopted a plan to move toward tithing; giving 10% of their income back to God. Each member of the Board has agreed to increase their giving by at least 1% of their income each year until they are tithing.**

**Will you consider joining the Board in this plan?**

**General Operating Budget**

- I/we want to join the Board and pledge to increase our giving by 1% of our income each year until we are tithing.
- I/we are already tithing, but we pledge to increase our giving for next year.
- I/we are interested in learning more about tithing. Please have someone from the Board or the Elders contact us to discuss giving.

After prayerfully considering our finances, my/our commitment to the General Operating Budget for 2018 is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week,                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month, or                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

Please place this portion in the offering plate, in the pledge boxes in the church, or mail or e-mail to: Community Christian Church, 1064 N. Business Rt 5, Camdenton, MO 65020, ccc\_doc@outlook.com.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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