

*Advent Season at SIF*  
***The Gift***





# Should We Celebrate Christmas at all?



*SIF*

Suzhou International Fellowship

# Why Dec. 25?





## Romans 14: 5-6a NIV

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so **to the Lord.**





# The Gift

Gold <sup>79</sup> Au  
Precious Metal  
Symbol of Kingship  
on earth  
196.967



Frankincense  
Resin from tree  
Highly fragrant  
Symbol of healing



Myrrh  
Resin from tree  
Spice for embalming  
Symbol of suffering



## **Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11 (NET)**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, “Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When they saw the star they shouted joyfully. As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.





**THE  
KING**

**THE  
GIFTS**

**&**

**WORSHIP**





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After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, “Where is the one who is born **king** of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to **worship** him.”

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**CHRISTIANITY  
IS PRACTICAL**





- **Faith without works is dead** - James 2:14-26
- **Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance**  
- Matthew 3:8 (NASB)
- **Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.** - 1 John 3:18 (NIV)





# THE SYMBOLISM OF FRANKINCENSE





## Exodus 30:34-35 (NET)

The Lord said to Moses, “Take spices, gum resin, onycha, galbanum, and **pure frankincense** of equal amounts and make it into an **incense**, a perfume, the work of a perfumer. It is to be finely ground, and pure and sacred.





## Hebrews 4: 14 & 15 (NET)

Therefore since we have a great **high priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without **sin**.





# Hebrews 5: 1-3 (NET)

For every high priest is taken from among the people and appointed to **represent them before God**, to **offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins**. He is able to deal compassionately with those who are ignorant and erring, since he also is subject to weakness, and for this reason he is obligated to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people.





# Hebrews 5: 7-9 (NET)

During his earthly life Christ offered both requests and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his devotion. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through the things he suffered. And by being perfected in this way, he became the source of **eternal salvation** to all who obey him, and he was designated by God as high priest in the order of Melchizedek.





# Be a Faithful Steward

April 24, 2022



Scan QR Code for the audio & slides





When we understand  
the holiness of God,  
we no longer take a  
casual approach to sin.





# Why His Priesthood Matters?





1. Dealing with the sin problem comprehensively
2. Restoring our priesthood





**What should  
our response  
be?**





1. Practical Worship (Like the Magi)
2. Obedience (Matt. 28:20)
3. Be a living sacrifice (Rom. 12: 1-2)
4. Tell others about Him (John 1:29)



## **John 1:29 (ESV)**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”





For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-29 (NIV)**

