

Christmas Day sermon

John 1:1-16

Who's opened their presents? What did you get? Were there any enormous ones? What about tiny ones?

Why do we give presents?

- Jesus birthday – we give presents to remember it
- Wise men bought gifts – what were they? Why Gold frankincense and Myrrh?

Gold is the metal of kings. When gold was presented to Jesus, it acknowledged his right to rule. The wise men knew Jesus was the King of kings. **Incense:** Incense was also a significant gift. It was used in the temple worship. It was mixed with the oil that was used to anoint the priests of Israel. It was part of the meal offerings that were offerings of thanksgiving and praise to God. **Myrrh:** Myrrh was used for embalming. It was a gift of faith. We do not know precisely what the wise men may have known or guessed about Christ's ministry, but we do know that the Old Testament again and again foretold his suffering.

And especially on this day we remember that God gave us the greatest gift of all – he gave us his Son – born as a baby on earth to show us how much he loved us.

I got some presents too – would anyone help me open them?

1. Smallest package – often the best presents are the smallest one; engagement rings, jewellery etc.
Only a sweet – oh well not much but better than nothing. I know it's a bit disappointing. Can you imagine what the shepherds must have felt

like when they visited the King – they found a stable and a baby – were they disappointed? No they went away praising and glorying God

2. Middle package – Well this has got to be better hasn't it? Who wants to open this one? Surely this has got to be special! Oh it's a bar of chocolate – maybe not the best present you've got today. If Jesus had been older when the wise men delivered their presents can you imagine them saying – well I like the gold but the frankincense and myrrh are a bit disappointing!!
3. Who's going to help me with this biggest present?

Read passage from John. How amazing is that –God loved us so much that he sent Jesus – his only son to earth. Because Jesus was born and came into the world – we all become children of God – citizens of heaven. Wow that is quite amazing gift.

Oh great it's a whole box of chocolates!! Hold out child's hands and pour out the chocolates

God's love is like this – abundant, overflowing

We didn't deserve this love but God loves us so much that his love overflows abundantly.

What is our response? What can our gift be to Jesus?