

Sermon for Epiphany 2010 Nicosia

Normally we would celebrate one of the eight principal feast days of the year by translating the Epiphany from the 6th to the Sunday; however, we are fortunate to have a regularly scheduled service on this feast day.

Last year we were in Heidelberg and heard We Three Kings sung. I cannot ever before remember hearing a woman sing the part of one of the kings as I did that year. And that led me to speculate on what it might have been like if the three wise men had been three wise women.

First of all, they would have asked directions and so would have arrived on time. Secondly they would have helped with the birth, cleaned up the stable, and brought really useful gifts like casseroles.

Now I want to tell you of a Christmas pageant that went for 6 when the 3 kings part came. The 3 kings were supposed to present their gifts and say "here is whatever." Remember every parent hopes and prays their child will not get stage fright or forget their lines. Well the first king was fine. He said "Here's some gold." Fine, good, well done. The second king could not remember his line. He just froze. So the third king dashed forward and said "Here's some myrrh." OK. Finally the third king moved forward, quickly put his gift on the ground and said, "Frank sent this."

OK, what about epiphany? Remember it means the showing forth of the Christ child, not just to the chosen people of God, but to all nations. Nations is the way the Hebrew people expressed what is known as the heathens, in other words, everyone who is not Jewish. But the kings themselves were not Jews.

And so the most important thing to remember is that Jesus the Christ came not for just a few people at one moment in time, but for everyone at all times, past present, and future.

For which we give most hearty thanks. Amen.