



Date: December 8-9, 2018
Speaker: Paul McIlwraith, Teaching Pastor
Scripture: Matthew 2-Gold & Frankincense

As much as I joked last week about the radio stations playing Christmas music around the clock this month, I really do like it. There is something about hearing some of those old familiar classic carols that have been with you since your childhood. Songs like *White Christmas*, *O Holy Night* and then there are some that are becoming classics like Bing Crosby and David Bowie's *Little Drummer Boy* and *Mary Did You Know* by Pentatonix.

It is also the only time of year, we hear those fun songs that have us singing along. Like *Feliz Navidad*. "I want to wish you a Merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart." Or what about the *Hawaiian Christmas Song*. It came on the radio this week and even though I can never get the words right, I sing it out anyway. "Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say on a bright Hawaiian Christmas day."

Some of these Christmas Classics have interesting backgrounds. In 1818, Austrian Pastor Josef Mohr was taking an evening stroll and glancing down on his peaceful, snow covered village from a hilltop, he remembered a poem he had written a couple years before about the angels announcing the birth of the Messiah. He went home and reworked the poem to become the beloved carol, *Silent Night*.

Jingle Bells, originally entitled, *The One Horse Open Sleigh* written in the United States in the mid 1850's, was not intended to be a Christmas song at all but was instead written to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Then there is perhaps the most confusing Christmas song of all time, and many might say, the most annoying. Anyone care to guess which one I am talking about? *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

For some, you are still scratching your head, *what are the Twelve days of Christmas?* According to Christian tradition, the four weeks before Christmas day, December 25th is advent, where we await and anticipate the birth of the Saviour. That is what we have been celebrating the last few weeks.

We lit the advent candle for Hope last week and this week it is Peace. Between December 25th and January 6th are twelve days, the twelve Days of Christmas. They symbolically mark the time between Jesus' Birth and Epiphany. Does anyone know the significance of Epiphany?

Epiphany comes from the Greek word, *epiphaneia* which means, *manifestation* or *striking appearance*. It commemorates the visit by the Magi, the Wise Men to Jesus. Remember, we talked about the Wise Men last week. It was the first manifestation of Christ to Non Jewish people.

Conspiracy Theorists surmise that the lyrics of the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* are actually coded references to Christianity. That the song was written to help Christians learn and pass on the core tenets of their faith while avoiding persecution that was common in Britain, especially Catholicism during the late 18th century when the song was written. Under that theory, the various gifts break down as follows,

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the Ten Commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

The partridge in the pear tree, naturally, represents Jesus Christ.

And my true love who gave these all to me, is God.

As I said, it is a theory that has actually been debunked more recently, but it is quite interesting and ties in nicely to our message series theme on gift giving and the story of the Three Wise Men. By the way, just in case you don't know what to get for that special someone in your life and this just gave you an idea to perhaps give them the gifts from the Twelve Days of Christmas.

In today's dollars it would cost you just under \$40 000. Which gift do you think is most expensive? Seven Swans a swimming. It would set you back \$13 000. Apparently you need a pool or a lake for them to swim.

The story of Epiphany. The visit of the Magi or Wise Men to Jesus is found in Matthew 2:1-12. Last week, we deconstructed the text and determined that it would have been impossible for the Wise Men to be at the stable on the night of Jesus' birth like all of the nativity scenes and Christmas cards seem to indicate. They would have first seen the star in Persia, their home and then followed it to Bethlehem, about a 1400km trek that could have taken them as long as a year.

When they finally arrived at the home of the now child, Jesus it says in,

Matthew 2:11

They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

As far as we know, this is the first instance of gentiles, non-Jews, the Wise Men, bowing down and worshipping Jesus as King. Perhaps foreshadowing that Jesus was not just a King for the Jewish people but he is a King for all humanity.

As was their custom, it says in the text, the Wise Men brought gifts for the King.

Matthew 2:11

Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Gold and Frankincense and Myrrh. These weren't just any gifts. They were deeply meaningful and symbolic in this day and they represented the impact that Jesus' life and death would have on the world.

Today, I want to focus in on two of these gifts, Gold and Frankincense and next week, Matt will share a little more about Myrrh.

Of the three gifts the Wise Men gave to Jesus, Gold is probably the most familiar to us. In fact, many of us still give gifts of gold to those who are important to us. They may include jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings. Perhaps there will be a special wrapped box for you under the Christmas tree this year that contains something of gold.

Let me give you a few details about Gold just so you understand its value. Unlike Silver or other metals, Gold is highly resistant to oxidation (rusting). Gold is so soft and malleable that 1 gram of gold can be pounded out to 1 square meter. This is what makes it so appealing to [jewelers](#) and other [artisans](#) who can use it to form all sorts of incredible shapes and designs.

For those of you who are familiar with Chemistry and the periodic table, the symbol for Gold is, anyone remember? **Au**. The symbol comes from the old Latin name for gold, *aurum*, which means "shining dawn" or "glow of sunrise." Representing its rich, yellowy colour.

Seven eight (78%) percent of the gold mined yearly is used in jewelry. But jewelry isn't made of pure gold. The amount of gold in a necklace or ring is measured on a Karat Scale. Not Carrot with a C but with a K. Pure Gold is 24 Karats. Bars of gold kept in places like Fort Knox are considered to be 99.95% pure or 24 karat.

As other metals are added to gold during jewelry making the gold becomes less fine and the number of karats drop. For example, an 18 karat gold necklace is 75% pure, a 12 karat gold broach is 50% pure. The only piece of gold jewelry I own, I have worn faithfully on my left hand for 34 ½ years. It is my wedding ring. The precious metal in which it is made symbolizes the incredible value of marriage. After reading about the different levels of gold in jewelry, I decided to take my ring off and look inside.

I had never noticed how many karats of gold it was before but I was certain that Carolyn, would have purchased a 24 karat gold ring for me, wouldn't you expect that. Our marriage is of the highest value. I twisted the ring around, squinted, glasses on, then glasses off and then I noticed it, engraved in tiny numbers. 1...0 K. 10 karats! It would appear my ring is made more of tin than of gold.

That is okay, we were young poor students at the time. I know what I am worth to her. Now, I don't want everyone taking off their rings right now and checking. Save that for home. By the way, Matt Eckert can be reached at matt.eckert@northpark.ca for any marital counselling that may be needed after checking the gold content in your rings.

But Gold is not just found in jewelry. It is an excellent conductor of electricity and reflects heat and light. A thin layer of gold is used on Astronauts' helmets to reflect the sun's harmful rays. The smart phones that most of you use, not in church but other places, they contain gold. Did you know that? It's conductivity and the fact that it does

not rust or tarnish makes gold very valuable for use in electronics.

There is an average of .001199 ounces of gold in every cell phone. Given an ounce of gold is worth about \$1 600 today that means you have about \$1.91 worth of gold in your hands. Probably not what drives up the price of those phones?

Gold is also nontoxic and non-allergenic so it can be used in some food and drink. You can buy desserts coated with a thin layer of gold. Some of you even have gold in your mouth as tooth fillings or ingest it in medicines.

Gold has many different uses in our world today and is valued as such. But, what about Jesus' day? Why was it so meaningful and symbolic that the Wise Men brought the gift of Gold to lay before Jesus just after he was born? Some have suggested that because of the value of gold, Mary and Joseph were able to use it to fund their trip to Egypt. Remember how King Herod was so threatened by Jesus' birth that unable to locate him, he had all the boys in Bethlehem under the age of two killed? Having been warned by God in advance, Mary and Joseph fled with Jesus to Egypt to avoid the genocide. To move this great distance would have been expensive for this poor, young family so the gold could have been used to help finance the trip. Maybe.

But probably more significantly, they gave the gift to Jesus because Gold was a gift that was usually given to someone important, like a King. We see examples of this specifically in the Old Testament. In 1 Kings 9, we are told that King Solomon was given gifts of Gold by his people. In 1 Kings 10, a pagan Queen of Sheba arrives before King Solomon and amazed with his great wisdom showers him with gifts, most notably of gold.

1 Kings 10:10

Then she gave the king a gift of 9,000 pounds of gold, great quantities of spices, and precious jewels.

It was a scene, giving gold to a King that would serve as a model of what would happen when the

Messiah came. Listen to this prophecy of the gifts that would one day be bestowed upon the Messiah.

Isaiah 60:5-6

*Your eyes will shine,
and your heart will thrill with joy,
for merchants from around the world will
come to you.
They will bring you the wealth of many
lands.
⁶ Vast caravans of camels will converge on
you,
the camels of Midian and Ephah.
The people of Sheba will bring gold and
frankincense
and will come worshiping the LORD.*

This foreshadows the day, when people, Jew and non-Jew will come and worship Jesus, the Messiah in the line of David with gifts like Gold, fit for a King. But Gold did not only represent the Kingship of Jesus, it also signified his divine nature. Of all the instructions God gave for furnishing his Tabernacle, the place where he would dwell amongst his people, gold was the most common material.

Exodus 25

v. 10 "Have the people make an Ark of acacia (A cay sha) wood—...Overlay it inside and outside with pure gold,

v. 17 "Then make the Ark's cover—the place of atonement—from pure gold.

v. 26 Make four gold rings for the table and attach them at the four corners

v. 31 "Make a lampstand of pure, hammered gold.

On and on it goes. In the New Testament book of Revelation 21, in describing the new city that God is creating, heaven, the Apostle John is given this vision:

v. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.

v. 21 And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

Not only was the tabernacle where God resided in the Old Testament made of Gold, but the New Jerusalem, where God will reside with us forever is made of gold.

Here is the thing. Gold beautiful, I think we all would agree, but it also doesn't rust, it doesn't tarnish and in this sense, Gold is beyond corruption. Symbolic of the purity of God.

Gold in the bible represents the divine and kingship. By bringing this gift to Jesus, the Wise Men are proclaiming that He is the Messiah, God's own son, the King of the world. But His Kingship was to be different than the world had ever experienced before. What do you think of, when you think of a King? Maybe your mind goes to King Solomon or King David from the bible or King Henry VIII from history or fictional Kings, like King Aragorn from Lord the Rings or King Joffrey Baratheon from Game of Thrones.

I would suggest that there are three traits that usually are identified with Kings. Firstly, they have wealth. They live in big palaces. The current British Royal Family, Queen Elizabeth and her brood are worth a combined total of \$88 Billion. Prince Charles who will one day be King, maybe, is currently worth about \$400 million but the moment that he becomes King that will rise significantly into the billions. Their wealth comes from things such as land holdings and real estate, priceless works of art and commercial property. Kings have wealth.

Secondly, they have power. All it takes is a word or an edict from the King and things get done.

Thirdly, they rule with force. This is especially true of times gone by. Kings were responsible for protecting their kingdom and anyone who stepped out of line, was met with the full force of the King's army.

Wealth, power and force. Now think of the life of Jesus. If someone were to ask you to describe Jesus to them, are these the first three words that come to mind? Wealth. Power. Force. Probably not. In fact, we may just say the opposite.

Jesus was humble. He came from humble beginnings, born in a stable and was poor his entire earthly life. He hung around the lowest of the low in his day. Those who were sick, the disenfranchised like the tax collectors, fishermen and farmers. He worked as a carpenter. Wealth was not a thing for him.

Secondly, he served. He didn't overpower people. He was so compassionate to the sick and the frail around him. He healed people. He taught people. He walked with people and listened to their greatest worries, fears and concerns. He was selfless in all that he did.

Thirdly, he was peaceful just like our advent theme this week. Jesus broke down walls that divided people. When he accepted the drink of water from the Samaritan Woman at the well in John 4, he broke all sorts of norms and taboos in this day. He crossed over the lines of race and gender, to treat everyone with the same dignity and respect. His actions were scandalous in his day.

Humble, Servanthood and peaceful living. That is what defined Jesus' life. Not wealth, power or force. His Kingship and the Kingdom he came to proclaim was different than any other reign before him and he called his followers to embrace these same attributes in their lives.

Do you remember the rich man that approached Jesus in Matthew 19? He asked him,

Matthew 19:16

"Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

Did you keep all the commands? Jesus asked him. *Which ones,* the man replies. Jesus lists them. *Oh yes, of course, I have kept them all,* the man says.

Then Jesus gets to the heart of the issue. He says to the man,

Matthew 19:21

"If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the

poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Your money doesn't define you. Faith in me, does. But the man went away downcast because he couldn't do it.

Do you remember in John 13, on the night he was betrayed just before his crucifixion? During his last supper, Jesus gets up from the table and with a cloth over his arm and a basin of water, he washes his disciples' feet. Then he says to them,

John 13:14-15

And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

Living under the reign of Jesus in the Kingdom of God is not about power but service. Do you remember the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus enemies approach him, led by Judas to have him arrested? One of those with Jesus pulls out a sword and lops off the ear of one of the men who is with the authorities.

Matthew 26:52

"Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword."

Jesus wasn't about force and violence. He came to offer us peace. In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet writes this about the coming Messiah.

Isaiah 9:6

*For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Prince of Peace. The reign of Jesus was to be defined by peace not force.

When those Wise Men laid that gift of Gold at the feet of the infant Jesus, yes they were pronouncing to all, that the Messiah, the King has come. But few would have had in mind the type of King he would be and the revolutionary upside down Kingdom he came to inaugurate.

What about **Frankincense**? The second gift the Wise Men lay before Jesus is Frankincense. Now I have to confess that I have a past bad experience associated with this word that I still haven't overcome completely. Every time, I hear Frankincense, I flash back to a Sunday School Christmas pageant I participated in when I was about 9-10.

We were presenting in front of the whole church (100 people), the scene where the Wise Men are bringing the gifts, and I was chosen to be one of the Wise Men. A big honour I must say. Our lines were basically those of the song, *We three Kings*.

The whole ensemble would sing the opening of the song,

*We three kings of orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.*

Oh, star of wonder, star of night.. You get the idea.

Then when each of the individual gifts were mentioned, one of the Wisemen would sing/speak that part solo.

So, the guy "repping" Gold said,

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.*

All went according to plan, then it was my turn. I was Frankincense. I was ready. I had practiced. This was my moment. Three lines. That is all. Oh, I started strong.

Frankincense to offer have I, Then I blanked. I couldn't remember the rest. I looked around desperately for help to come from anywhere. I looked at my parents in the crowd but I think my

dad had his head in his hand just shaking his head. No help there.

Finally, my teacher stepped in and gave me the lines, *incense owns a Deity nigh*. I got through it but that performance marked both my stage debut and finale in the world of Christmas Pageants.

The truth is, I didn't even know what Frankincense was. Do you? At the time of Jesus' birth, the Frankincense tree was thought to be so sacred that only those of pure heart and mind were allowed to come near it. Frankincense is a white gum or resin that is obtained from a tree by making incisions in the bark and allowing the sap to flow out.

It was once greatly valued in the Middle East and was quite costly. It was known for its wonderful fragrance and was used in perfume and also in worship as an offering to God in the temple.

Exodus 30:36-37, gives some instructions on how it is to be used in the offerings. It says,

You must treat this incense as most holy. Never use this formula to make this incense for yourselves. It is reserved for the LORD, and you must treat it as holy.

Did you know you can still get Frankincense today? I have this bottle that I use when I am praying for people, perhaps they are sick and I take some and anoint them by dabbing a little on their forehead.

Anointing Oil. Frankincense.

I had a lady from the congregation come up to me last week and show me a vial of Frankincense she keeps in her purse. It is an Essential Oil. Any of you into Essential Oils? She says she just takes some for medicinal purposes, puts a little bit on the roof of her mouth and she swears by it. But it doesn't come cheap. \$90 for a little vial.

In presenting this gift of Frankincense to Jesus, the Wise Men are acknowledging him as the great High Priest. His life would be a pleasing offering just as Frankincense was presented as an offering to God in the temple and Jesus' life would be a sacrifice to his heavenly Father.

High Priest. The role of a High Priest was important in the Old Testament. He acted as a mediator between God and the people. He stood in the gap.

He was responsible for entering the most Holy place of the temple, the Holy of Holies, once a year, on the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur.

He was the only human allowed to go to this sacred place but even he first had to offer a sacrifice for himself so that he ensured that he was cleansed and then he could step into the holy place and offer the sacrifices for the people to cleanse them once again for another year. Every year this had to be repeated by the High Priest for the people.

With the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, he became the final High Priest for the people. In the New Testament book of

Hebrews 4:14-16 it says,

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Just like Jesus is unlike any King the world has ever known, he is also a unique High Priest. What makes him so unique?

First, Jesus is sinless. No other High Priest could ever say that. They were like you and me but not Jesus.

Hebrews 7:26 says,

He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin.

Secondly, because he was sinless, he didn't have to offer any sacrifices for himself. He didn't have to cleanse himself before he approached God like the other High Priests before they could enter the Holy of Holies. They had sins of their own that needed to be dealt with first. Not Jesus. He needed no sacrifice for himself and that is what allowed him to be able to offer himself as a sacrifice for us, humanity.

Thirdly, his sacrifice was "once for all".

Hebrews 7:27 says,

Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins.

When Jesus gave his life on that cross for the sins of humanity, for you and for me, it is finished. There is nothing else that needs to be done. You don't have to earn it. You don't have to prove yourself. You just have to receive it. Jesus' death covered our sins, once and for all. That's grace. Grace was planned from all eternity but not without Jesus at the centre and his death as the foundation. Do you believe that? Have you received it?

Finally, the ministry of Jesus is forever. Unlike all the other high priests. Jesus never dies. He conquered death and lives forever. He never has to be replaced. He will be there for us long after everyone we depend on is gone. The priesthood of Jesus lasts forever.

Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the promised Messiah. He lived a sinless life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He was resurrected from the dead and ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand side of God and intercedes for us. He hears our prayers and presents our case before God.

He did not come to fit into the Old Testament system of priestly sacrifices. He came to fulfill them and to put an end to them.

With Jesus as High Priest, a new covenant, (remember our definition of covenant from a few weeks ago? *A covenant is a commitment that involves promises and obligations*) is in place.

Our sins are forgiven and we are given new and eternal life through him. When the Wise Men came to the place where the star led them and bowed down and worship the infant Jesus, the second gift they offered him was Frankincense which represented that Jesus is the new High Priest. He is different than any High Priest that world has ever known before. Do you see that?

He was the new mediator for the people. He was sinless. He didn't have to offer sacrifices for himself but instead could become the sacrifice.

His sacrifice didn't have to be repeated every year, it was "once for all" and his ministry is forever. But probably the most significant thing for us, as Christians to understand is that with Jesus as our High Priest, we can now approach God with confidence. We no longer need to depend on earthly mediators. Jesus has broken the barrier, made the sacrifice, established a new covenant and reinstated our relationship with God. Isn't that amazing? Those gifts that the Wise Men laid before this young child are hugely meaningful and symbolic.

GOLD- Jesus is the King of the World but his kingdom is different than anything the world has ever known before. Humility, servanthood and peace are the prevailing values in this Kingdom.

FRANKINCENSE- Jesus is the new High Priest. The old system, the old way of doing things is gone. No longer do we have to earn our way. No longer do we have to do more to try and make up for our shortcomings. We are now saved by grace through what Jesus, our high priest, our mediator has done through the cross. He has broken down the barriers and given us unrestricted access to God.

Now here is my confession. That is as far as I got on this message.

On Thursday morning, I was sitting in my office working on a conclusion when I got a phone call. It was from Carolyn. She was on her way from London to Waterloo. She had just received a phone call from the nursing home where her mom is a resident. Carolyn's mom, Elizabeth has bravely battled Parkinson/Alzheimer's disease for almost ten years. Her family was told four years ago that she would not last another year, but she did. And another, and another and another.

But she has been failing the last few weeks. The call Carolyn received was informing her that her mom's death was now imminent. She only had a few days. Carolyn immediately drove to be at her mom's bedside and to be with her dad, who has his own health struggles.

I quickly took care of a few things I needed to wrap up and then made my way to be with my bride in what I knew was a deeply emotional time for her.

So I prayed the conclusion of this sermon would write itself.

All day Thursday and Friday, we camped out at Elizabeth's bedside. We prayed, read scripture, sang songs, laughed and shared memories. Family and friends came to pay their last respects. Probably what touched me the most was when workers from the nursing home, PSW's and care givers came by her room in tears to share how much they loved Elizabeth. Even though she has not been able to communicate verbally for the last few years, she was always so gently and kind and patient with the care givers that allowed them to do their jobs well. Everyone who came into her room the past few days made the same comment. *She seems so peaceful.* And she was, right up to the time she took her last breath. She died early Saturday morning.

What was it that gave her peace as she faced such traumatic events? She followed the King, Jesus. She accepted him as Lord and Saviour of her life as a child. He was her High Priest because of what he has done through the cross.

Although her life was not perfect, no one's is, she chose each day to bow down and worship Jesus as Lord of her life. That is what gave her peace even in the final hours of her life.

The Wise Men's gifts of Gold and Frankincense were deeply meaningful. They were to remind us of who Jesus is and the hope he is to the world as King and High Priest.

It's Christmas time. That is what all our radio stations are telling us by the music they are playing. It is a time for giving and receiving gifts. So, let me ask you. Have you received the gift of Jesus in your life? Is he your King and High Priest? Is he what gives you hope each day no matter what circumstances you face? That is what this story of the gifts of the Wise Men teaches us. That when Jesus entered the world, his light and life overcame the dark shadows of an uncertain world and gave peace and hope to all humanity. Do you have that hope and peace in your life today?

Amen? Amen

Points to Ponder

The Gift

Gold and Frankincense

With a friend, your family or in your small group, discuss the following questions.

1. Share some of your favourite Christmas Carols. What is it about each song that resonates with you?
2. Do you have a piece of gold jewelry that you value? Describe the sentimental meaning it has for you.
3. Gold as a gift from the Wise Men represents the Kingship of Jesus. What does it mean to you that his reign was not about wealth, power or force? How are the values of humility, service and peaceful living incorporated into your life?
4. The gift of Frankincense represents Jesus as our great High Priest. What does it mean for your life that Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for our sins?
5. The advent theme this week is Peace. Define what peace is in your group. How does the world seek to rob us of peace? What are the ways that you experience peace in your life through your faith in Jesus?

Prayer and Action Item

Pray for one another out of the key points that were discussed. Pray that you may experience the peace that Jesus, the King and High Priest, has come to offer you.