



Epiphany and the Camel - Play Outline

This liturgical work was originally crafted and led by Doug Cowling

Station 1 – We Gather

- storyteller and Star gather at the chancel steps.
- storyteller calls forward children and other participants and crowns them as kings.
- As we begin our journey, the camel enters from baptistry

"We don't know how many kings came to greet Jesus. We just know that there were three gifts. And those gifts are like clues; they tell us something about Jesus. Let's follow the star and go find the first clue."

Please join in singing verse 1 and the refrain, while the characters move to find the gift of gold.

"We Three Kings" Verse 1 + Refrain

- the crucifer lifts up the star and leads the group to station 2 near the organ console.

Station 2 – Gold

- The children, as kings, find the treasure chest with gold located under the pew. They touch it and look at it. It is shown to the adults seated close by.

"Gold is a symbol for kings. It is a symbol of riches. It is a very valuable gift. This clue tells us something about Jesus. It tells us that Jesus is a king too. Let's follow the star and find the next clue."

Please join in singing verse 2 and the refrain, while the characters move to find the gift of frankincense

"We Three Kings" Verse 2 + Refrain

- the crucifer lifts up the star and leads the group into the back of the center aisle for station 3

Station 3 – Frankincense

- The group of kings moves down the side aisle and regroups at the back of the church.
- The kids find a thurible and incense boat. The thurible **is not** lit.
- The kids look at and smell the grains of incense in the boat and add some to the unlit thurible

"Incense was used in the Temple when the priests offered sacrifices to God. Its smell reminds us of prayer. It reminds us that we all have something to offer to God. This clue tells us that Jesus is a kind of priest. It also tells us that there is something sacrificial about Jesus. Let's follow the star and find the next clue."

Please join in singing verse 3 and the refrain, as the characters move to find the gift of myrrh

"We Three Kings" Verse 3 + Refrain

- the crucifer lifts up the star and leads the kings towards the font for station 4

"Big, generous symbols"



Station 4 – Myrrh

- The kings find oil stocks of Chrism and Unction
- The storyteller opens the Chrism and lets the children and adults close by smell it.
- The storyteller reminds everyone that we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross. Sometimes with oil. Makes the sign of the cross on some volunteers.
- Introduce the Unction. Let people smell it.
- Unction is a different type of oil. Unction is used in prayers as someone is dying. That is a different kind of anointing.
- These oils represent the beginning of our life in Christ and our transition to a new way of belonging to God after our death.

“This oil reminds us of Myrrh, a type of oil that was once used to anoint people’s bodies after they had died. It was used to help prepare for burial. This clue tells us about Jesus and the kind of life and death he will experience. Let’s follow the star and bring our gifts to Jesus, to the Christ child.”

Please join in singing verse 4 and the refrain, as the characters move to the creche in front of the altar to present their gifts to the Christ child.

“We Three Kings” Verse 4 + Refrain

- The crucifer lifts the star and leads the group to the creche.

Station 5 – Presentation of Gifts

- The storyteller notes that it was a long journey.
- The kings are invited to present their gifts to the creche scene.

“Jesus we greet you this day. You are our king. Our God. Our great high priest. You will live and die as one of us. But in your living and in your dying, you will transform both life and death”

Please join in singing the last verse and the refrain as we encircle the Christ Child and enjoy the presentation of the gifts.

“We Three Kings” Verse 5 + Refrain

Closing:

- crowns are collected.
- kings return to their seats. Just as the Magi travelled home by another road, the kings are encouraged to take a different path as they return to their seats.
- camel is “parked” in front of the lectern
- In places where something of an Epiphany sermon is wanted, the storyteller or designated preacher may offer a reflection

“Big, generous symbols”