



# Queen Street Baptist Church

Since 1822

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## The Gift Of God

A shopper mused over the window display signs that marked some luxurious gifts. “For the man who has everything,” one placard read. “Pamper the woman of your dreams,” stated another. There were no price tags visible, so his assumption was that money was no object.

If that were the case he wondered, and if he could give his loved ones any gift in the world, what would it be? Mansions, stocks, cars, vacations, diamonds? The best gifts the Wise Men could conceive of were gold, frankincense and myrrh. He wondered if they pondered over the gifts for Jesus. We know that those gifts had great significance.

The Bible tells us that the best gift is more costly, the Saviour coming into the world & dying for us  
 This poem by Christina Rossetti searches the inner being.

What can I give Him,  
 Poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd,  
 I would bring a lamb;  
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
 Yet what I can, I give Him -  
 Give my heart.



Good and perfect gifts come from the HEART, not the mall.



This is something all Christmas shoppers need to ponder.  
 Help us to remember Lord; that the best of all gifts was not adorned with bells and bows; the best gift the world has ever seen was wrapped in swaddling clothes.  
 It's easy to get caught up in the Christmas season and miss out on the reason we celebrate.



## The Three Kings

*The Three Kings, Melchior, Casper, and Balthazar, guided by the Bethlehem Star, set out to pay homage to the new-born King.*



*According to the legend, they arrived on the Twelfth Night and “presented unto him gifts”. Melchior’s gift was gold (representing Christ’s Royalty).—Casper’s gift was frankincense (representing Christ’s Divinity) Balthazar’s gift was myrrh (representing Christ’s suffering).*

*It is interesting to find that in some countries gifts are exchanged on the twelfth night after Christmas because of this tradition.*

*The Gospel story in Matt. 2: 1-20 makes no reference to the names, the number, or even royalty of the Magi. These delightfully engaging details have come down to us through legend and tradition.*

*From popular legend we are further told that Melchior was a small man and was King of Nubia; Casper was a medium sized man and was King of Chaldea, while Balthazar was a tall black skinned man and was King of Tarshish.*

##### (The Christmas Caroler’s Book)

O Christmas Tree



The Christmas tree has become an important part of our festivities. Have you ever wondered where the custom originated?

The Christmas tree is of very early origin. In the ancient world, the Romans had a winter festival called Saturnalia which was held in honour of Saturn, their god of the seed-sowing. At these annual festivals, it was customary to have trees laden with decorations and gifts.

During the Barbarian invasions the Goths adopted the customs of the Saturnalia, including the tree custom, and brought them back into Germany.

The tree however, did not become a part of the Christmas festivities until the time of Luther. When once it was adopted as a Christian symbol, it became very popular throughout Germany.

As a Christian Symbol the tree, which is evergreen, represents Christ, who is ever living and eternally the same. The custom spread throughout other lands, and today almost every home sports one at Christmas.

**Welcome**

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