

Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ

January 5, 2025

Old Testament Reading; Isaiah 60: 1-6

Responsive Reading: Psalm 72: 10-14

Epistle Reading; Ephesians 3: 1-12

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon: The Other Wise Man

By Rev. Jim Gardner

Summary: Jesus did many other things but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ. (John 20: 30+31}

Our summary for today's message is, Jesus did many other things but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ. Everything that the Bible says that Jesus did He did. This does not mean that there are not any things that happened that are not in the Bible. More things happened than could ever have been recorded. Another words just because the Bible does not record the story of the Little Drummer Boy does not mean that it could not have happened. Likewise, there

is no reason to believe that there were not other wise men that sought to find the newborn King.

Henry Van Dyke wrote a book in 1889 which was retold by Pamela Kennedy in 1946. I will now retell Pamela's story for my listening audience but to avoid copyright infringements will post a synopsis of that story for our readers. The Pamela Kennedy version can be found on the internet.

Here is the story of The Other Wise Man.

“The story is an addition and expansion of the account of the Biblical Magi, recounted in the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament.^[3] It tells about a "fourth" wise man (accepting the tradition that the Magi numbered three), a priest of the Magi named Artaban, one of the Medes from Persia. Like the other Magi, he sees signs in the heavens proclaiming that a King has been born among the Jews. Like them, he sets out to see the newborn ruler, carrying treasures to give as gifts to the child - a sapphire, a ruby, and a "pearl of great price". However, he stops along the way to help a dying man, which makes him late to meet with the caravan of the other three wise men. Because he missed the caravan, and he can't cross the desert with only a horse, he is forced to sell one of his treasures in order to buy the camels and supplies necessary for the trip. He then commences his journey but arrives in Bethlehem too late to see the child, whose parents have fled to Egypt. He

saves the life of a child at the price of another of his treasures.

He then travels to Egypt and to many other countries, searching for Jesus for many years and performing acts of charity along the way. After 33 years, Artaban is still a pilgrim, and a seeker after light. Artaban arrives in Jerusalem just in time for the crucifixion of Jesus. He spends his last treasure, the pearl, to ransom a young woman from being sold into slavery. He is then struck in the head by a falling roof tile and is about to die, having failed in his quest to find Jesus, but having done much good through charitable works. A voice tells him "Verily I say unto thee, Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40)^[4] He dies in a calm radiance of wonder and joy. His treasures were accepted, and the Other Wise Man found his King." (from Wikipedia, accessed January 4, 2025).

For thousands of years men have searched for the King and for thirty-three years men walked the same dusty roads with the King but could not or would not see Him. It was not until the open tomb that mankind found that they did not have to search for the King but rather the King was searching for them. The King was searching for room in the Inn of man's heart to come in and dwell with and in him.

Is there room in your Inn for the King? I hope so. I know that there is room in mine.

Hallelujah and Amen!