

Anointing

Opening Liturgy:

Your name is still called "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," and "The Prince of Peace." As Your children, we cry out for a fresh filling, and a new awareness of Who You are. We choose by faith to make the "good news of great joy" a reality in our own lives, so others can see us as lighted trees of life, pointing to You this Christmas. We know one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that You are Lord. And we also know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. Amen.

Announcements:

- Progressive Dinner will be Dec 5th for those who signed up, don't forget to check in with your small group leaders for more info!
- Flap Jack Finals Fiesta will be Wednesday December ..

Scripture:

Exodus 30:22-30

²² Then the Lord said to Moses, ²³ “Take the following fine spices: 500 shekels^[a] of liquid myrrh, half as much of fragrant cinnamon, 250 shekels of fragrant calamus, ²⁴ 500 shekels of cassia—all according to the sanctuary shekel—and a hin of olive oil. ²⁵ Make these into a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil.²⁶ Then use it to anoint the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law, ²⁷ the table and all its articles, the lampstand and its accessories, the altar of incense, ²⁸ the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand. ²⁹ You shall consecrate them so they will be most holy, and whatever touches them will be holy.³⁰ “Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.

Matthew 2: 1-2

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Here's the Deal:

Oil is a powerful symbol both in scripture and in the Christian tradition. We get the word Messiah from the Hebrew word *mashiach*, which literally means 'anointed' (with oil) or *anointed one*. This usually refers to the setting apart for God's purpose for rulers. This anointing, for us, is a sign for the one being baptized, confirmed, or anointed. That they (and you!) too belong to God, are holy & set apart for God, and that the Holy Spirit's presence is with them. As we see in our scriptures, Jesus being called the Messiah before his birth sets him apart for God's purpose even before, but it also set a connotation for Jesus's path for kingly conquest and ruling. Which we know now, is not the path that he took. Anointed, Jesus showed us how we should live as set apart and for God's purpose in our world each day. He showed us what a different kind of king can look like.

TRY THIS:

Read Luke 7:36-48, Matthew 26:6-13, & John 12

What do these readings show us about Jesus' anointing?

Write out the similarities and differences. What can we tell about Jesus through these passages? Does this fit with what you already know about Jesus? Why or why not?

Closing Prayer:

God we thank you for setting us apart in this world, anointing us to do your will. To bring goodness to those around us. To shed light on dark days. To be a friend to those who are lonely. We pray for your peace, and that we'd remember the reason for this holiday season. Be with us always, Amen.