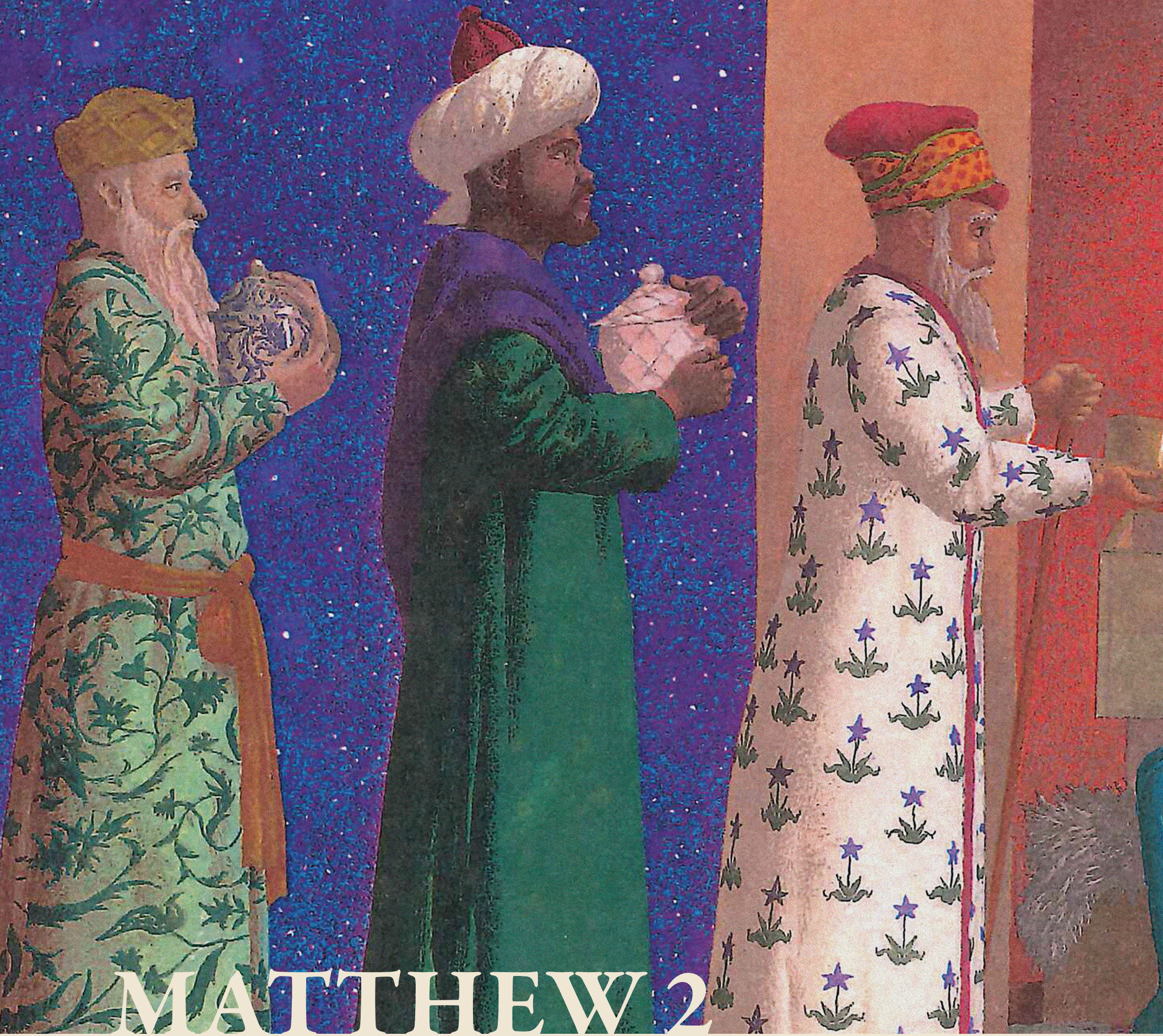


In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" After inquiring of the chief priests and scribes, Herod sent them to Bethlehem.

The wise men set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



# MATTHEW 2

The Magi arrived to bring gifts to Jesus, to kneel and adore him. They departed as his protectors, not returning to Herod, but traveling home another way. Their gift was to PROTECT, a greater gift than anything from their treasure chests.

What gift do you bring? Take a moment to reflect on a gift you have to offer God's creation and community. How would you describe it in one word?

Write that word on a star and place it in the manger.

(Suggestions can be found on the bench in the bag with the stars).