

DECEMBER 24-25, 2018  
CHRISTMAS EVE,  
CHRISTMAS DAY



*Jesus Christ, the true light, is born!*

### CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebrations.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b>	<b>A child has been born</b>
	<b>Luke 2:1-20</b>	<b>The birth of Jesus</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Psalms 98</b>	<b>The Lord works miracles</b>
	<b>John 1:1-14</b>	<b>The Word became flesh</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:14 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for Christmas:**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the greatest gift of all, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the Word made flesh. May the good news of great joy for all people fill our lives and our world with his love and peace. Amen.

#### **Mealtimes Prayer:**

Thank you, O God, for the love between us, for the food that feeds us, and for the gift of your Son to redeem us. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God's kindness and mercy rest on you, and may the good news of Jesus' birth bring you great joy.



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### HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS

*Away in a Manger*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about the story of someone's birth that you have witnessed or know about.
- How does the birth of a child reflect the miracle of life?
- Jesus is the Word made flesh. How is his birth a miracle for all the world?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Luke 2:1-20.

Jesus is born into a family from Nazareth, a rather forgettable town. He is actually born in Bethlehem, the city of David, which begins to make this child already more remarkable. But before the birth even happens, Luke links the event to Emperor Augustus and the Roman Empire, the ruler of most of the known world. This Jesus of Nazareth, born to a peasant family but with ties to King David, is meant to have global impact. From Jesus' humble beginnings that included a feeding trough, a manger, for a bed, angels and shepherds will speak of God's glorious intent for this child. Jesus' mother, Mary, is the perfect model for a faithful response to all that has happened, "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (v. 19). Take time to treasure and ponder what Jesus' birth means for empires, nations, angels, shepherds, the world, and you.

*Pray:* **Dear God of glory who brings peace on earth, we thank you that to us is born the Messiah. We thank you for shedding your saving grace and glorious light on us that we may treasure your word and see Jesus as Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Read the story of Christ's birth in Luke 2:1-20 or from a children's Bible. God's gift to us is Jesus. We give one another gifts at this time of year. Take time to talk about what meaningful gifts could be given to others through acts of service or kindness.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The white candle in the center of the Advent wreath is the Christ candle. Take a moment to discuss or think about what it means to you that God has entered our world as a baby in Bethlehem. Read the following after you light the four blue candles and then the Christ candle on your Advent wreath.

*Leader:* **In John 1:1-14, we read that Jesus is the true light who gives light to every person. Our center Advent candle is our Christ candle. As we light it, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light of the world.**

*All:* **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for entering into our world and our lives in human form. May you be the light that shines brightly in our hearts and minds and world. Amen.**



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