

DECEMBER 24-25, 2020
CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY



Jesus is born for those in need.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

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

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|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Thursday | Luke 2:1-20 | The birth of Jesus |
| | Isaiah 9:2-7 | The reign of the coming king |
| Friday | Psalm 96 | Sing a new song |
| | John 1:1-14 | The Word became flesh |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

But the angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:

Amazing God, for good news given to peasants, to shepherds, and to us, we give you thanks and praise through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we remember you are to be praised for all you do for us through Jesus Christ, born in a manger in Bethlehem. Amen. (Psalm 96:4)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who comes to save you, bless you with joy. (Titus 2:11)



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HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS 

Silent Night

CHRISTMAS MILESTONES 

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS 

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

- Tell or think about a time when you surprised someone.
- Tell or think about a time when someone surprised you.
- How does Jesus' birth in Bethlehem amaze you?

DEVOTIONS 

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

The shepherds in the fields have a startling encounter with God, bringing them good news of Jesus' birth. In that time and place, shepherds were described as "sinners." Their work in the fields kept them from observing the Sabbath. They were unclean and seen as liars, thieves, and generally unsavory. With this social stigma, they are likely people who had themselves given up on God. More than outcasts, they had simply walked away from hope in the mercy of God. In Luke 2, God does not give up on the shepherds—or us—as God reaches out to them in the fields. God didn't wait for them to show up at the temple or the synagogue. God doesn't have to wait for us to show up at "church," either. The startling news of Jesus' birth is that it is for those who need God most. When have you felt like giving up on God? How does this birth story help you hear good news?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to hear the good news of Jesus' birth for all the world, especially when we feel far from you; in the name of Jesus, the Savior, Messiah, and Lord, amen.**

SERVICE 

There are those around us in need of seeing God's love in action. Is there a local soup kitchen or shelter where you can volunteer time or donate items this week for those in need of seeing the good news of Jesus birth in action?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS 

Make your Christmas Day into a celebration of Jesus' birthday. Use some Christmas pastries or a cake to help celebrate. Place a white candle in its center and on Christmas Day, light the candle, sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, and then take time to complete this sentence:

Say: **The birth of Jesus is special to me because _____.**

Then sing some Christmas carols.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org