

DECEMBER 24-25, 2019
CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY



Jesus is born as the Prince of Peace.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

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

Tuesday	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20	A child is born The birth of Jesus
Wednesday	John 1:1-14 Hebrews 1:1-4	The Word became flesh God has spoken through Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:

Glory to you O God, glory to you Lord Christ; lead us to praise you and to trust your reign of hope, peace, joy, and love now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Now the silence, now the peace, we pray that all hunger in the world may cease. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the news of Jesus' birth give you peace and joy now and always.



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HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS

Away in a Manger



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:

- What is the meaning of your name? What nicknames have you been given over the years and what do they mean to you?
- Jesus is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. What do those names mean to you?
- How does Jesus' birth make a difference for the world? for your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

Our faith in Christ is based in history. It is the time of Emperor Augustus. The town is Bethlehem in Judea. The parents are a poor couple without land of their own. Jesus' birth happens at a time when the Jews were occupied by the Romans, a foreign power controlling much of their lives. While the events describe the life of poverty and oppression that has been a constant factor in human history, something quite amazing breaks into the story: an angel, a messenger of God, and a whole host of heavenly figures announce good news, news that shepherds—a marginalized group in society—bring to Mary, Joseph, and countless throngs throughout history. The birth of Jesus challenges history as we typically see it and announces a divine history that promises God's rule of peace and hope, life and salvation. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (v.14).

Pray: **Lord God, for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that changes everything for us and for the world, we give you thanks for your promise of life and peace and salvation. Amen.**

SERVICE

At this time, we often receive Christmas cards from friends and family. Before the end of the year, take time to sit and read your cards. Reach out with the eternal light of Jesus Christ with an act of kindness to those who sent you a card. In what ways can you be in prayer for them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The candle in the center of the Advent wreath is white. It represents Christ. Light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Then light the center Christ candle.

Say: This candle is a symbol of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Read: John 1:5 states, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Jesus is the true light who gives light to every person. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light of the world. Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives hope, peace, joy, and love.

Pray: **Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for being born into our world. Bring your eternal light to our hearts, our homes, and our world, for you are our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

