

## Christmas Day YEAR B December 25th, 2014

The first set of readings for Christmas Eve focuses on the seemingly ordinary theme of God's coming to us in Christ. However, the key issue in this coming, is in our capacity to see it, to recognise it, to appropriate it, and to make it seen. The surprise, perhaps, of this celebration – that should keep us open-minded and open hearted, and constantly mindful and aware – is that it was the most unlikely people who got to see the birth of Christ, and the expected ones who missed it completely.

May our eyes and be opened to see again for the first time (to borrow a phrase from Marcus Borg) the power of the incarnation for us and our world.

### INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

### SET I

#### **Isaiah 9 : 2-7**

The bible readings in Advent have prepared us to celebrate the coming of the Lord. His people longed for him, and we know the joy of living with him here and now. So, we understand Isaiah's prophecy as greeting the birth of a child whose new kingdom of righteousness will last forever.

#### **The Psalm - Psalm 96**

#### **Titus 2 : 11-14**

The new morning of the world has dawned, says this writer. As we learn how to live in this bright new light, in gratitude for the first coming of Jesus who has made us his own, we await the greater glory when Christ will come again.

#### **Luke 2 : 1-14, 15-20**

Luke, the master storyteller, gives us pictures we shall never forget, of the humble birth at Bethlehem of the Saviour of the world, and the shining glory which brought shepherds to worship the Lamb of God.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%209:%202-7%0Acw%20Psalm%2096%0ATitus%202:%2011-14%0ALuke%202:%201-14,%2015-20](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%209:%202-7%0Acw%20Psalm%2096%0ATitus%202:%2011-14%0ALuke%202:%201-14,%2015-20)

### SET II

**Isaiah 62 : 6-12**

The prophet proclaims that the news of God's deliverance will reach every corner of the world, to call all his people back to himself. He will redeem them, and make them his holy ones.

**The Psalm - Psalm 97**

**Titus 3 : 4-7**

Christ has come to bring a new dawn says this writer. Now we know we are not saved by our good deeds, but by grace alone. The divine mercy makes us heirs of eternal life.

**Luke 2 : 1-7, 8-20**

[Click here to view the readings](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2062:%206-12%0Acw%20Psalm%2097%0ATitus%203:%204-7%0ALuke%202:1-7,%208-20)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2062:%206-12%0Acw%20Psalm%2097%0ATitus%203:%204-7%0ALuke%202:1-7,%208-20](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2062:%206-12%0Acw%20Psalm%2097%0ATitus%203:%204-7%0ALuke%202:1-7,%208-20)

**SET III**

**Isaiah 52 : 7-10**

In typical Hebrew style, the prophet sings of a glorious future as if it had already happened. For us, God has indeed visited and redeemed his people, glory to Israel and light for the Gentiles.

**The Psalm - Psalm 98**

**Hebrews 1 : 1-4, 5-12**

In this anonymous essay, the writer contrasts the partial revelation given in times past with the outpouring of God's word in his glorious son.

**John 1 : 1-14**

In so few but wonderful words, John captures the majesty and the mystery of God disclosing himself; his divine Word is made flesh. Christ was from the beginning, is now, and all who believe this are children of God.

[Click here to view the readings](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2052:7-10%0Acw%20Psalm%2098%0AHebrews%201:%201-4,%20[5-12]%0AJohn%201:%201-14,%20[15-18])

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2052:7-10%0Acw%20Psalm%2098%0AHebrews%201:%201-4,%20\[5-12\]%0AJohn%201:%201-14,%20\[15-18\]](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2052:7-10%0Acw%20Psalm%2098%0AHebrews%201:%201-4,%20[5-12]%0AJohn%201:%201-14,%20[15-18])

## COLLECTS OF THE DAY

### The Nativity of our Lord (Day)

#### Collect One

Almighty God,  
who hast given us thy only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him,  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin;  
Grant that we being regenerate,  
and made thy children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit;  
through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end.

#### Collect Two

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
Grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the brightness and peace of this Christmas morning, let us pray to our God, responding, "Amen."

Gracious Creator, in the beginning was the Word and through the Word were all things created. Continue your creative work in your people the Church and place your Word in our hearts, and minds and mouths, through that same living Word,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Ruler of heaven and earth, who has created the peoples for yourself, may wars  
cease and weapons be surrendered. Make each believer a vessel and instrument of  
your peace in the world, serving peace, speaking peace, through the living Word,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Compassionate God, hope of all who have no other hope, be with those who are  
alone or who mourn a lost loved one at this time. Bring the lonely to our minds and  
guide our steps to those in need of your special care. Give us words of friendship to  
share, through the living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wonderful Counsellor, who shares your wisdom with the humble poor and the little children, take away our pride, any self-centred desires, and pompous ambitions, making us little and poor before you, ready to receive whatever you have  
for us in your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of Glory, grant what we ask, as you see that it is good for us. Nourish us through your Word and at your holy Table with the living Christ. Amen.

### **POST COMMUNION**

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
May the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

### **PRAYERS**

#### **First set of readings**

O Holy One,  
heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds  
and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem.  
Through the telling of the Christmas story,

let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal  
in that same child,  
that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host  
in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

God of glory,  
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem,  
where the Light of the world is humbly born  
into the darkness of human night.  
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,  
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice,  
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

Light of life, you came in flesh,  
born into human pain and joy,  
and gave us power to be your children.  
Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,  
so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness  
and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

We bless you, Abba, Father,  
for you have visited your people  
in one like us in all things but sin,  
and in human fragility you have revealed  
the face of divinity.  
Gather into your arms  
all the peoples of the world,  
so that in your embrace  
we may find blessing, peace,  
and the fullness of our inheritance  
as your daughters and sons. Amen.

With the angels of heaven we proclaim your glory, O God.  
As the radiance of your presence lights up the heavens,  
we pray for enlightenment  
for your church on behalf of the whole world.  
Grant that, through our prayers,  
our lives may radiate the presence of Christ  
to all who dwell on earth,  
for he is our Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

God of all ages,  
in the birth of Christ  
your boundless love for your people  
shattered the power of darkness.  
Be born in us with that same love and light,  
that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**Second set of readings**

O Holy One,  
heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds  
and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem.  
Through the telling of the Christmas story,  
let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal  
in that same child,  
that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host  
in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.  
God of glory,  
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem,  
where the Light of the world is humbly born  
into the darkness of human night.  
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,  
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice,  
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

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born into human pain and joy,  
and gave us power to be your children.  
Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,  
so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness  
and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

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for you have visited your people  
in one like us in all things but sin,  
and in human fragility you have revealed  
the face of divinity.  
Gather into your arms  
all the peoples of the world,  
so that in your embrace  
we may find blessing, peace,

and the fullness of our inheritance  
as your daughters and sons. Amen.

God of incarnation,  
your angel host announces  
that peace has been born among us,  
embodied in fragile flesh.  
With confidence in the power of that miracle,  
we bring before you our prayers for the church and the world.  
By your grace, transform our prayers from words to deeds,  
that we may live as a holy people  
in the dawn of your peace,  
redeemed from all that divides us. Amen.

Christ, our God,  
whom humble shepherds worshiped at a manger,  
you are holy and most high, merciful and mighty.  
Startle us to wakefulness,  
that we may rejoice in your new and glorious dawn,  
and, in your holy name,  
act to mend this suffering world. Amen.

Tender and precious God,  
from ancient times  
the promise of your salvation  
has sustained your people. With Mary and Joseph,  
teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus,  
and with shepherds and angels,  
lead us to praise his holy name. Amen.

### **Third set of readings**

O Holy One,  
heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds  
and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem.  
Through the telling of the Christmas story,  
let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal  
in that same child,  
that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host  
in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

God of glory,

your splendour shines from a manger in Bethlehem,  
where the Light of the world is humbly born  
into the darkness of human night.  
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,  
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice,  
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

Light of life, you came in flesh,  
born into human pain and joy,  
and gave us power to be your children.  
Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,  
so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness  
and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

We bless you, Abba, Father,  
for you have visited your people  
in one like us in all things but sin,  
and in human fragility you have revealed  
the face of divinity.  
Gather into your arms  
all the peoples of the world,  
so that in your embrace  
we may find blessing, peace,  
and the fullness of our inheritance  
as your daughters and sons. Amen.

May our gracious God,  
whose light shines in the darkness of our lives,  
the One who formed creation,  
now hear the prayers we offer this day for all people.  
Splendor of eternal glory,  
grant that we may be faithful witnesses  
to the light that dawns this morning [day],  
proclaiming Christ's word of peace and salvation  
in acts of justice and mercy. Amen.

God,  
you spoke and your Word became flesh,  
breathing a new song of joy and praise  
into the world.  
Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation,

proclaiming your promise of peace  
to the ends of the earth. Amen.

### LECTIONARY NOTES for set 1

#### **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

The message for Christmas Eve is clear and simple: in Christ, God comes to us. There are so many ways this can be – and has been – understood: God's presence is not far off, but close and accessible; those who are first involved in this coming are poor and excluded people – shepherds, women, and foreigners – which demonstrates God's commitment to justice. But, perhaps at the heart of all this is the question of seeing. Isaiah calls Ahaz to 'see' God's work – God's light shining in the darkness – on behalf of God's people. The Psalmist invites all the earth and all peoples to see God's glory and majesty, to recognise God's coming in justice and righteousness and to respond in praise; Paul encourages followers of Christ to see God's grace that has come, and to live it out as we watch for the coming of God's reign in fullness; The shepherds are invited to see the Christ child, and in this event, see God's coming to them and to all humanity. If God comes, but we are not open to the visitation, if we have closed eyes and hearts, the coming can do nothing for us. However, when we allow our eyes to be opened, we discover God's coming in every moment and place.

#### **CONNECTING WITH LIFE:**

**GLOBAL APPLICATION:** A significant part of the work of justice is a commitment to seeing – as clearly and truly as possible – both the realities of our world, and the injustices in it, and the signs of change, progress and God's reign that are emerging. It is only with this seeing that we can encourage, support and strengthen the good that is happening and effectively challenge the darkness. So, in the growing concern about climate change and our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy, there is a light shining in the darkness. In the growing groups within faith communities of those who seek inter-faith dialogue and understanding rather than conflict and dominance, there is a sign of God's coming. In the rise of social entrepreneurship, we see God's grace at work in our world. In the growth of fair trade movements, ethical consumerism, and sustainable and humane farming, there is light in our world. All of these are signs of God's coming – the influence and growth of God's reign – among us. Each offers us the opportunity to cooperate with what God is doing in our world. And each also offers the challenge to continue to assess our lives against Christ's standard, and to change to embody the Gospel where necessary.

**LOCAL APPLICATION:** God's coming into our world, miraculously, is not just to communities, nations and the whole earth, but also to individuals. In each

of our lives we have the opportunity to see God's coming, and we have the responsibility to acknowledge the places where we have resisted or ignored God's desire to enter our lives. Where we find ourselves growing more aware of God's presence and purpose in our daily routines, where we discover new capacities for compassion, humility, simplicity and joy, where we find ourselves becoming more whole in spite of the struggles of living in this world, we have seen God's coming to us. Where we remain stuck in destructive attitudes and habits, where we continue to allow our selfishness and fear to break down relationships, where we fail to allow our eyes to be opened to God's image in others, we have failed to welcome the Christ Child into our lives. Ultimately, what the incarnation tells us, dramatically and powerfully, is that Christ came not just to get us into heaven, but to bring heaven to this earth. To the extent that our lives reflect this heaven – to the extent that we become more Christ-like and just in our own daily lives – we are the blessed ones to whom God has, once again, come.

### **LECTIONARY NOTES for set 3**

#### ***Isaiah 52:7-10:***

- "beautiful feet" - I've known this verse, though not where to find it in the Bible, since I was in a summer-camp production of "Sandi Patti and the Friendship Company" in junior high, where "Beautiful Feet" was one of the songs. I looked all over for lyrics online, but couldn't find them. Beautiful feet - what a great image! Are your feet beautiful? What message do your feet carry from place to place? Do you bring peace with your feet? Salvation?
- Isaiah speaks of the joy of Israel returning back home after exile to Babylon. When have you experienced your most joyful homecoming? When have you been away from home and not wanted to be away from home? Homesick? Without a home?
- According to [Chris Haslam](#), the reference to "God's arm" is a reference to God's power. Sort of envisioning a God-flexing-muscles picture.

#### ***Psalms 98:***

- Oof - watch out - there's "God's arm" again, twice on one day!
- "Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy." Great imagery. How would you create this image?
- This is a psalm of joy and thankfulness for God's action in someone's life, in the life of a whole people. How do you celebrate as an

individual? As a community? Do we celebrate as nations? A world?  
How do we express our joy in God? Through worship? Action?

**Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12):**

- Hebrews talks of Jesus as the reflection of God's glory. I think we are also reflections of God's glory, if we let ourselves be, let God makes us into these reflections. This is what it means to be created in God's image, isn't it?
- "exact imprint of God's very being" - This makes fingerprints come to mind, or plaster casts of babies' feet.
- The argument here seems to be: Jesus is better than angels. Was this a question in the early church?
- I *think* this passage from Hebrews may be the only non-gospel place that refers to Jesus' birth in the scriptures. But Hebrews' description sounds more like Revelation and less like Luke 2!

**John 1:1-14:**

- This is John's take on a birth narrative. No shepherds, no angels, no Mary and Joseph, no manger. This is how John describes Jesus' coming into the world. The language is rich in metaphor, and though it lacks the characters of the traditional nativity, the point is still communicated without a doubt: 'And the word became flesh and lived among us'.
- This is one of my favourite passages in the Greek New Testament, not only because of the easy, repetitive vocabulary :) but also because it is poetic and lyrical through the simple, repetitive structure. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
- Passages like this from John provide the strongest base for our Trinitarian Christian Creeds. Jesus was "in the beginning with God."
- I think we are all, like John the Baptist, meant to *testify*, or witness, to the light. How do you do it? Witnessing means telling what you know about something, like at a trial. What do you know about the light that is Christ?

**ONLINE SERMON SOURCES**

**Sermons that work - Making Room**

From the Episcopal Church site - by Canon Frank S Logue - Christmas is an occasion that brings families together. Surely there is at least someone here tonight wondering how he is going to be able to sleep on that fold-out couch

that awaits him. That bar across the back starts to get really uncomfortable sometime in the middle of the night. And someone else is wondering how she'll fair on the floor whether in an air mattress or in a sleeping bag. That's what it likes when families gather, the house overflows with people, and we make room.

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/12/09/christmas-eve-abc-2013/>

### **For Christmas Day - Is it True?**

From the Episcopal Church site - And is it true? The choices of lessons for Christmas Day approach that question in two ways. St. Luke tells us the story, a story we've heard year by year. Because we are so familiar with the tale, its truth may not engage us anymore. Yes, it's a beautiful story. A young girl gives birth to a baby in a cave used to house farm animals. The child is placed in a feeding trough. We don't know whether Joseph was able to find a midwife to assist in the birth. We do know that they took shelter in the cave because there were "no vacancy" signs on the doors of all the inns, the motels of that day.

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2011/12/?cat=7>

### **For Christmas Eve**

From the Episcopal Church site - Scroll down to end of first sermon (the one abovehere!). Part of the wonder of this night is the possibility of the meeting of worlds, the coming together of time. We sing, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Though we live so long after those events in Bethlehem, tonight we find ourselves at the manger. In our mind's eye, we imagine the holy family in the stable, the mother tired, but radiant; the breath of the animals visible in the cold night air. We hear the lowing of the cattle and the rustle of straw. But most of all, we gaze in wonder at the baby, this long-expected child.

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2011/12/?cat=7>

### **Emmanuel - By Frederick Buechner**

A Christmas article, entitled "Emmanuel," was originally solicited then turned down by The New York Times Magazine for being "too theological." The article was originally published in "[A Room Called Remember](#)" and later in "[Secrets in the Dark](#)".

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). - MATTHEW 1:23

"We preach Christ crucified," the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles" (1 Cor. 1:23). He could as well have written, "We preach Christ born" or "We preach Christmas," because the birth presents no fewer problems than the death does both to religious people - "the Jews" - and to everybody else - "the Gentiles." Christmas is not just Mr. Pickwick dancing a reel with the old lady at Dingley Dell or Scrooge waking up the next morning a changed man. It is not just the spirit of giving abroad in the land with a white beard and reindeer. It is not just the most famous birthday of them all and not just the annual reaffirmation of "Peace on Earth" that it is often reduced to so that people of many faiths or no faith can exchange Christmas cards without a qualm. On the contrary, if you do not hear in the message of Christmas something that must strike some as blasphemy and others as sheer fantasy, the chances are you have not heard the message for what it is. Emmanuel is the message in a nutshell, which is Hebrew for "God with us." Who is this God? How is he with us? That's where the problem lies.

<http://frederickbuechner.com/content/weekly-sermon-illustrations-emmanuel-christmas-article>

### **Look to the Child - Luke 2:1-14**

by [the Rev. Dr. John Philip Newell](#)

The great army of light sings, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace." Do we believe this heavenly pronouncement? Do we really hope for peace on earth, peace in our lives and families, peace among us as religions and nations?

Last year in an interview the Dalai Lama was asked if he had hope for the future. He laughed and said, 'Of course I have hope. The future has not yet been decided.' Do we believe this? Or do we live as if we believe there is no hope, as if the future has already been determined, as if the fragmentations and divisions of our lives and world are permanent.

Today, throughout the world, we celebrate the birth of the Child of Peace. Even well beyond the Christian household, men and women with their families and children will mark this day with gift-giving and celebration. People and cultures everywhere will hear again the song of hope and will look to the Child....

Conclusion -

## **Christmas Day YEAR B December 25th, 2014**

I invite us today to hear again the song of hope. I call on us as nations to look for the preciousness of the Child in every nation. I call on us as religions to seek the Child's sacredness in every religion. And I call on us as families to be faithful to the healing gifts of the Child in every family. This is the way of love, the way of transformation. Only the power of love will save us, not our love of power. Only love-force will create peace on earth, not brute-force.

The love-force of God is our true soul-force. Shall we open ourselves to what we could never have imagined happening? The Child of Peace can be born again. We carry within us the precious gold of life. We carry within us the sacred fragrance of God. We carry within us the healing salve of love. A new salvation can be born. Do we believe it? If so, let us live it together. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."

[http://day1.org/3362-look\\_to\\_the\\_child](http://day1.org/3362-look_to_the_child)

### **Christmas Sermons from Seattle**

By Edward E Markquart - Grace Lutheran Church

#### **The Peace of Christ or Christmas**

Luke 2:1-14

#### **Do You See What I See**

Luke 2:22-23

#### **Everything Has A Crack In It**

Luke 2:33-35

#### **The Gloria**

Luke 2:1-14

#### **Emmanuel: God With Us**

Matthew 1:19-25

#### **The Long Walk Is The Gift**

Matthew 2:1-12

#### **The Liberator**

Luke 2:1-14

#### **Magic and Miracle**

John 1:1-18

**Everywhere, Christmas Tonight**

Luke 2:1-14

**The Word Became Flesh**

John 1:1-18

<http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/christmas.htm>

**CHILDREN**

**Sermons4kids 1**

The Neglected Gift: Remaining faithful to Jesus. Object required: A wrist watch. Scripture: How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation. Hebrews 2:3

[http://www.sermons4kids.com/neglected\\_gift.html](http://www.sermons4kids.com/neglected_gift.html)

**Sermons4kids 2**

Reflecting the Light. Theme - The Christian Life, Witnessing. Objects required: A mirror and a flashlight. Scripture: There was a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light: he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. John 1: 6-9 (NIV)

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/light.html>

**Sermons4kids 3**

Jesus and the Three R's. Theme - Each of us must choose what we will do with Jesus. Objects required: No object is really needed, but you could use some text books as a visual reminder to the children that they will be returning to the classroom soon. You might also use three "flash cards" with the three "R" words on them.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/three-rs.html>

**Sermons from Seattle**

There are several here:

Amos, The Shepherd Boy

Abbie, the Littlest Angel

Artaban and the Three Jewels

Wilbur

The Best Christmas Gift

The Perfect Hallelujah Sound

<http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/christmas.htm>

### **Highlighting the Chrismon Tree 2014**

Fran Woodruff, *On the Chancel Steps*.

The Chrismon Tree is a relatively new option for sharing the story of God's love. Started in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, the tradition caught on and spread quickly...long before the Internet! This year, our church is using the parts of the Chrismon Tree to help us slowly prepare for the big joyful mystery of Christmas. For more details on the history of the Chrismons, see the [Ascension Lutheran Church Chrismons Ministry](#).

For other details on ornaments and symbols, see these sites:

[Chrismon Customs](#)

<http://www.whychristmas.com/customs/chrismons.shtml>  
and [Chrismon Symbols](#)

<http://www.robinsonpresby.net/Worship/Chrismons.pdf>

<http://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2014/11/16/advent2014/>

[Worshipping with Children](#),

Christmas Eve/Day, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

There are three sets of texts for Christmas Eve/Day in the lectionary. Most of the ideas here are for Christmas Eve. But at the end of the post you will find several items that are mainly for Christmas Day.

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/year-christmas-eve-or-day-december-24.html>

[Why Children Need to Get To Church on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day.](#)

In most families Christmas Eve and Day are busy, chaotic times. It is not easy to get a family that includes overly-excited children to church. But, it is worth the effort. Children (and their parents) actually need it. The church helps when it articulates for parents clear reasons to make the effort. Here is my starter list of reasons.

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/why-children-need-to-get-to-church-on.html>

[Gathering Advent](#)

Fran Woodruff, *On The Chancel Steps*.

Scroll down through Advent to address for Christmas/ Christmas Eve

<http://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2013/11/17/gathering/>