



**Children's talks and
Sermon sources
for
Christmas 2017**

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

Sermons that work - Making Room

From the Episcopal Church site 'Sermons that Work' - 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. Whilst you are at this reference, scroll down for the one below!

<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 above here!). 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>

["Did You Find What You Were Looking For?"](#) the Rev Anjel Scarborough,
Sermons that Work, Episcopal Digital Network

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

For Christmas Day

["Sermon for Christmas Day,"](#) Bishop Steven Charleston, *Day 1*

http://day1.org/970-sermon_for_christmas_day

Quotation on Emmanuel - By Frederick Buechner

From a Christmas article, entitled "Emmanuel."

"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.

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 -

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

Christmas Sermons from Seattle

By Edward E Markquart - Grace Lutheran Church

[The Peace of Christ or Christmas](#)

Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Eve:

[Do You See What I See](#)

Luke 2:22-23

[Everything Has A Crack In It](#)

Luke 2:33-35

Christmas Eve or Day:

[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

Christmas Eve

[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

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>

[Children's Sermon, Faith Formation Journeys](http://faithformationjourneys.org/?p=2970)

<http://faithformationjourneys.org/?p=2970>

[More Children's 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](#)

[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

www.churchnewsireland.org

Sermon sources for Christmas 2017

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](#).

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

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/>

Please commend this resource to colleagues - to obtain passwords and to receive notifications of postings they simply send an email to churchnewsireland@gmail.com with the message 'Passwords' in the title