

**Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 26 – 31, '22**

**Mon Matthew 1:18-23** The events we celebrate at Christmas were brought about by God Himself. An angel of God was sent to Joseph to guide him in carrying through on his marriage to Mary, who carries a child from the Holy Spirit (v20). The Child will save his people from their sins, and is indeed "God with us."

**Tues 1 John 3:1-5** God the Father has shown the greatest love in sending His own Son, who appeared in order to take away sins (v5). Through God's Son we have been cleansed of our sin, and brought into God's own family as "children of God" (v1,2). As such we surely do not desire to continue in sin, acting as though we were His enemy's children.

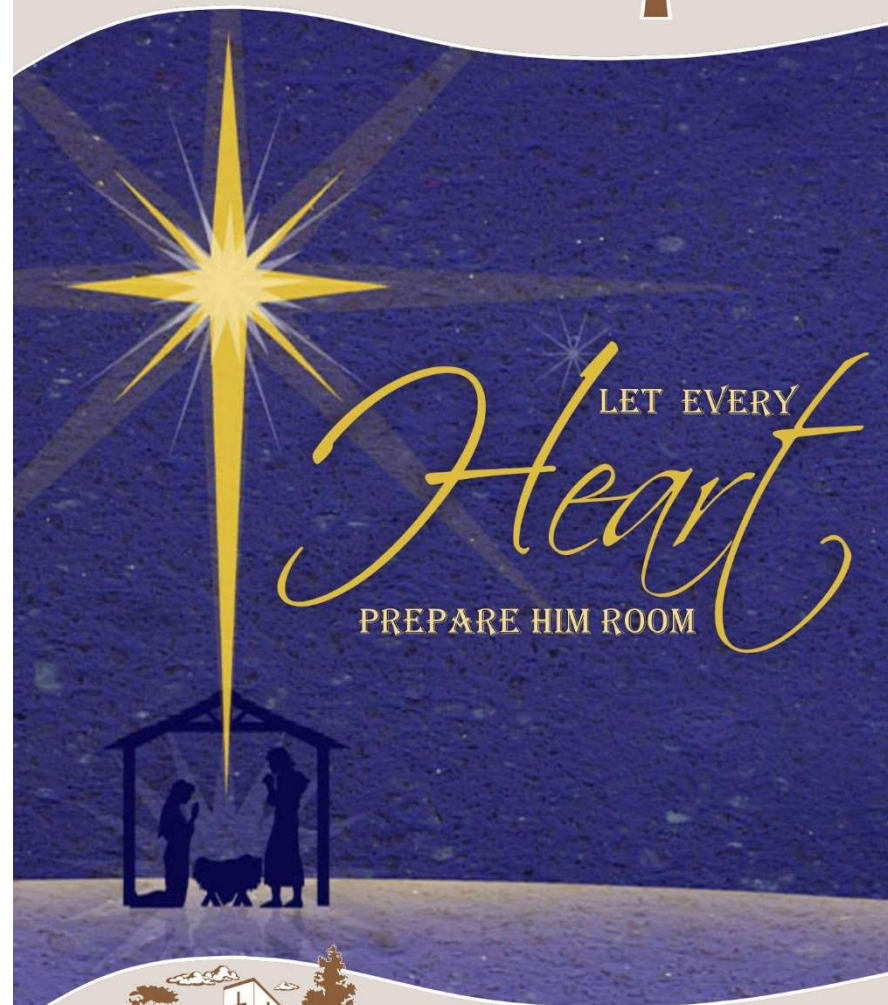
**Wed Isaiah 9:6-7** The prophet reminds us that our joy at the Savior's birth is not our doing but God's (v7). The names by which He will be called show the Savior's character and work. His wisdom and power bring us to eternal peace. The everlasting nature of His kingdom was also emphasized to Mary by the angel Gabriel (Lk1:33).

**Thurs Luke 2:25-32** Simeon, a devout seeker of the "consolation of Israel," is led by the Spirit to find that consolation in the child Jesus, now forty days old. Simeon praises God for preparing salvation for all people, both Gentiles and Israel (v30-32). Truly this means "a glad new year to all the earth!" (TLH85:15).

**Fri 2 Corinthians 5:1-9** On the basis of God's salvation in Christ, Simeon was ready to depart this life in peace (Lk2:29). Similarly the apostle Paul looks forward to departing this life and being at home with the Lord (v8) after the "tent" of this earthly existence is exchanged for the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (v1).

**Sat Isaiah 63:7-16** The prophet, having seen God's people rebel against the tender care and steadfast Fatherly love of the LORD, calls upon God to remember His compassion of old and how in His love and in His pity He redeemed them (v9). As we stand on the threshold of another new year, we also rejoice to remember the compassion and love of "our Redeemer from of old" (v16).

December 24, 2022  
Christmas Eve



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# “Who Gets to Hold the Baby?”

## Opening Prayer

Hymn: *Below*

“O Come, Little Children”

*O come, little children, O, come, one and all  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small,  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night,  
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and delight.*

*He's born in a stable for you and for me,  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild  
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.*

*See Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where he lies,  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.*

*Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
Lift up little hands now, and praise Him as they;  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.*



Hymn: TLH #647:1,2,4

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

## ...God the Father

**P** Who gets to hold the Baby? God the Father was the first. In fact, God held Him from all eternity. Jesus was One with the very essence of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit. Together they have always been one God, since forever and ever.

**C** “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven



## ...The Cross and the Grave

Duet

“What Child is This?”

## ...The Heavens

**C** “Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever!”  
(Revelation 7:12)

Hymn: WS #706

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

## ...The Believer's Heart

Hymn: TLH #87:1-2,4

“Joy to the World!”

## The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**C** Amen!

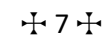
Hymn: TLH #646

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia.  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*



## ...Simeon in the Temple

Hymn: Below

"The Nunc Dimittis"

C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For  
light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Sunday School Children

"Ring the Bells"

Ring the bells, ring the bells, ring the bells today,  
Jesus came, Jesus came for us on Christmas Day.

Ring the bells, ring the bells, ring the bells today,  
Jesus came, Jesus came to take our sins away!

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

✠ 6 ✠

and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." (Colossians 1:15-17)

☐ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:1-4). "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14).

Hymn: TLH #98:1-3, 5

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

## ...Mary's Womb

Hymn: Tune of TLH #85

"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"

My soul now magnifies the Lord;  
My spirit leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind regard,  
And I am blest for time to come.

For He alone who shows such might  
Has done amazing things to me. His mercy flows;  
His name like light Remains in time perpetually.

His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scatters those of  
proud intent And casts them down from high estate,  
Then gives the low His nourishment.

He feeds the hungry as His own;  
The wealthy leave with empty hands. He gives His help to  
Israel; His gracious promise always stands.

So praise with me the Holy One,  
Who comes in all humility. Divine Redeemer, God's own Son,  
to Him shall glory ever be!

✠ 3 ✠

## ...Joseph

☐ “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David: to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.”  
(Luke 2:1-5)

Hymn: Tune of TLH #127 “O How Tender Was the Man”

*O how tender was the man, Chosen by the Lord to stand;  
Next to Mary meek and mild, And the little Promised Child;  
Joseph was that tender man Chosen by the Lord to stand.*

*Joseph came to understand By an angel's sure command,  
What God had for him to do, He was faithful, he was true,  
Joseph was a faithful man, So he heeded God's command.*

*Joseph, so we oft may think From the scene must always  
shrink; But the Word of God is clear: Joseph's part was very  
dear; Earthly fathers have their place, Showing Heaven's  
caring face.*

*Let us all like Joseph be Serving God so faithfully;  
For this world will need to see What a Father God will be;  
Just as Joseph played the part, So we too reveal God's heart.*

## ...Swaddling Cloths and a Manger

☐ “And so it was that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”  
(Luke 2:6-7)

✠ 4 ✠

Hymn: Below

“Away in a Manger”

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*

## ...Some Shepherds

☐ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”  
(Luke 2:8-14)

Hymn: TLH #94:1-3

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

✠ ✠ ✠

Hymn: WS #715

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

✠ 5 ✠