

## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Because of Bethlehem, we can remember the arrival of the promised Messiah. Spend time over the next 25 days thinking about one of these Bible verses each day leading up to Christmas. Print this page, cut out each day's verse, and put it some place you'll see it several times a day. If you have time, rewrite each verse in your journal or on a notecard, remembering the promises—both spoken and fulfilled—in each scripture.

DAY 1

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. – *Isaiah 9:6*

DAY 2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." – *Micah 5:2*

DAY 3

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. – *Isaiah 7:14*

DAY 4

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. – *Matthew 1:18*

DAY 5

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." – *Matthew 1:20*

DAY 6

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." – *Matthew 1:21*

DAY 7

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" – *Luke 1:45*

DAY 8

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus." – *Luke 1:30-31*



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

DAY 9

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. – *Luke 2:1*

DAY 10

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. – *Luke 2:4-5*

DAY 11

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born. – *Luke 2:6*

DAY 12

She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. – *Luke 2:7*

DAY 13

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. – *Luke 2: 8-9*

DAY 14

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” – *Luke 2:10*

DAY 15

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” – *Luke 2:11-12*

DAY 16

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. – *Luke 2:17-18*



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

DAY 17

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. – *Luke 2:19*

DAY 18

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. – *Luke 2:20*

DAY 19

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” – *Luke 2:14*

DAY 20

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” – *Matthew 2:1-2*

DAY 21

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. – *Matthew 2:10*

DAY 22

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. – *Matthew 2:11*

DAY 23

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. – *John 1:14*

DAY 24

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – *John 3:16*

DAY 25

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. – *Psalms 107:1*





## GIVE

Because of Bethlehem, we've been given the ultimate gift—a savior who understands us. You can consider about how this gift has changed your life as you give to those in need with a reverse Advent calendar.

Each day for 25 days set aside one item to be given to a local charity or food bank. Kids may have fun picking one unopened item out of the pantry or choosing a toy they haven't played with recently.

Get the whole family involved by decorating a box to collect the goods you'll donate. Leave the box in an area where you'll regularly see it, and every time you do, spend a moment thanking God for the gifts he's given you.

After 25 days, deliver your donations, and make it an event for everyone in your household.

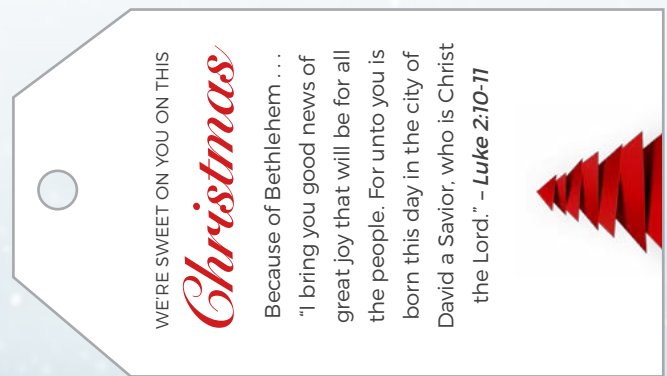
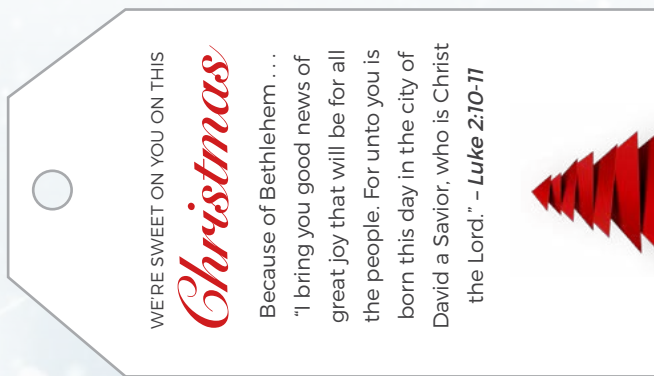


## SHARE

Because of Bethlehem, we have so much to be thankful for—a friend in heaven and a savior who redeems us, to name a few. This season express your gratitude by sharing the Good News—and something sweet—with friends and neighbors.

If you have time, prepare a special treat from your kitchen to theirs. Package up your famous banana bread or best homemade fudge and share it with those you know. This is a great time to get the whole family involved. Get help preparing, decorating, and wrapping from everyone in the house. And as you're working together, share some things that you're thankful for this year.

No time to bake? Wrap up a bundle of candy canes or buy a box of chocolates. Then be sure to attach one of these tags to remember why we celebrate.



## PRAY

Because of Bethlehem, we have a savior who hears our prayers and understands our heartaches. Some of your friends may have had a difficult year. Maybe they're looking for direction or guidance as they begin a new year.

Set aside several minutes to pray for those you know are struggling.

Don't have much time? Consider adding prayer to your Christmas card mailing. As you sign each card, pray for the recipient. Thank God for their friendship and ask him to protect and guide them every day.

If you have kids you want to share time with, ask them to stick stamps on the envelopes and share a fun memory about each person who will receive a card.



Available at [DaySpring.com](http://DaySpring.com) and your favorite retailer.





# BECAUSE OF Bethlehem

## WORSHIP

Because of Bethlehem, the whole world sings about Christ. Radio stations will spend an entire month playing Christmas carols.

Instead of tuning out when you hear a song you've heard a thousand times, really focus on the lyrics to the old hymns. Ask yourself some key questions like:

- What does the promise of “God and sinners reconciled” mean for you?
- How are you receiving your king, as Joy to the World implores? “Joy to the world the Lord is come, Let earth receive her King.”
- How can you invite Jesus to be near as in Away in the Manger?

When you hear a Christmas carol, use the opportunity to worship the God who sent his Son to earth. Sing loudly as the angels did of the joy of this precious gift.

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
15th Century French melody, arr. Thomas Helmore  
12th Century Latin, tr. John Mason Neale

1. O come, O come Em - man - uel, And ram - som off - five Is - ra - el, That  
2. O come, Thou King of heav - en, who ex - ceed - est high, who sit - est on the right hand of the Father,  
3. O come, Thou high Priest, who sitt - est on the right hand of the Father,  
4. O come, Thou King of heav - en, who ex - ceed - est high, who sit - est on the right hand of the Father,  
5. O come, Thou King of heav - en, who ex - ceed - est high, who sit - est on the right hand of the Father,  
6. O come, Thou King of heav - en, who ex - ceed - est high, who sit - est on the right hand of the Father,  
7. O come, Thou King of heav - en, who ex - ceed - est high, who sit - est on the right hand of the Father,  
8. O come, Thou King of heav - en, who ex - ceed - est high, who sit - est on the right hand of the Father.

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**  
Charles Wesley, 1739 Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glor - y to the new - born King; Peace on earth, and  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'nly do - ctor, Christ the ey - er - last - ing Lord; Late in time, be -  
3. Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace, That the Son of Right - eous - ness! Light and life to  
4. Come, De - scend to us, come, Fill us in Thy hum - ble home; Rise, the wo - man's  
5. Of - f - end - ers, Lord, er - ase, Stamp Thy im - age in our place; So - cious - ly our

near - by world, God and sin - ners re - conc - iled! Joy - ful, all of us a - wait thee,  
- hold Him come, Olf - spring of vir - gin's womb, Vell'd in flesh the God - head see;  
all the sin - ners, His will be - do - ing at His word, Mild He says His grace; He  
con - qu'ring Need, Re - in - state us in Thy love, Let us - though lost, re - gain.

Join the tri - umph of the skies; With th'un - god - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in  
Hail th'In - car - na - tion! De - i - ty, Pleased with us in sons of earth, Be - cause our King,  
Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sin - ner up, Born to give them  
Thee, the Life, the in - ner man; O, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be -

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

**Joy to the World**  
Isaac Watts, 1719 Lowell Mason, 1836

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is re - ign! Let earth re - ceive her king; Let  
2. Joy to the world, the Son is com - et! Let men their songs en - play; While  
3. No more let sin and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground; He  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove The

cy - ery heart pre - pare His room, And Heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
fields and rocks, hills and plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
joice to make His bless - ings flow Far as the curse is found, Far  
of His right - eous - ness, And won - ders of His love, And

Heav'n and na - ture sing, And Heaven, and Heav'n, and na - ture sing,  
peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat, re - peat, the sound - ing joy,  
as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the sound - ing joy,  
won - ders of His love, And won - ders, won - ders of His found, love.

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™



BECAUSE OF  
*Bethlehem*

# WORSHIP

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1739

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

$\text{♩} = 112$

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glor - y to the new - born King; Peace on earth, and  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord; Late in time, be -  
3. Hail the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to  
4. Come, De - sire of na - tions, come, Fix in us Thy hum - ble home; Rise, the wo - man's  
5. Ad - am's like - ness, Lord, ef - face, Stamp Thine im - age in its place: Se - cond Ad - am

mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise,  
- hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;  
all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings. Mild He lays His glor - y by,  
con - qu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head. Now dis - play Thy sav - ing power,  
from a - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love. Let us Thee, though lost, re - gain,

Join the tri - umph of the skies; With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in  
Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus our Em -  
Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them  
Ru - ined na - ture now re - store; Now in mys - tic un - ion join Thine to ours, and  
Thee, the Life, the in - ner man: O, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be -

*Refrain*  
Beth - le - hem!"  
- man - u - el.  
- sec - ond birth. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glor - y to the new - born King!"  
- ours to Thine.  
- liev - ing heart.

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™





## WORSHIP

### Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, 1719

Lowell Mason, 1836

$\text{♩} = 95$

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her king; Let  
2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em - ploy; While  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground; He  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove The

ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room, And Heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
comes to make His bless - ings flow Far as the curse is found, Far  
glo - ries of His right - eous - ness, And won - ders of His love, And

Heav'n and na - ture sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and na - ture sing.  
- peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat, re - peat, the sound - ing joy.  
as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.  
won - ders of His love, And won - ders, won - ders, of His love.

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™



## WORSHIP

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12th Century Latin, tr. John Mason Neale

15th Century French melody, arr Thomas Helmore

♩=115

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That  
2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - derest all things might - i - ly; To  
3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; From  
4. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine ad - vent here; Dis -  
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And op - en wide our heav - enly home; Make  
6. O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Si - nai's height In  
7. O come, Thou Root of Jes - se's tree, An en - sign of Thy peo - ple be; Be -  
8. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the hearts of all man - kind; Bid

*Refrain*

mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
us the path of know - ledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
depths of hell Thy peo - ple save, And give them vic - tory over the grave.  
- perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark sha - dows put to flight.  
safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y. Re -  
an - cient times once gave the law In cloud and ma - jes - ty and awe.  
- fore Thee rul - ers si - lent fall; All peo - ples on Thy mer - cy call.  
Thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

- joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

