

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future. —Agnes M. Pahro

What do Isaac Newton, Jimmy Buffet, Pope Pius VI, Sissy Spacek, Annie Lenox, Muhammed Ali Jinnah (founder of Pakistan), Anwar Sadat, Justin Trudeau and Humphrey Bogart have in common with Jesus?

These famous people were all born on Christmas Day.

Perhaps your birthday is December 25. If it is, you are one of the rare people who has such a birthday. Except for February 29, December 25 is just about the rarest day on which to be born. No kid wants a birthday on Christmas Day because it's not special. It's like he or she is robbed of a special day of attention and presents. It's a point well-taken because December 25 is a very special day.

Even Jesus was probably not born on December 25. Most scholars agree for a variety of sometimes complicated reasons that Jesus was probably born sometime in the spring. But, we have been celebrating his birth on December 25 for more than 1,500 years.

Children born on December 25 probably will not be mollified by being told that they have the same birthday as Jesus, the Savior of the world!

But, in fact, this is precisely why December 25 is so important to us. On this day, we celebrate the arrival in the flesh of the eternal God of the universe — the God who existed before time, during time and after time, and who has now visited us in human form.

Pretty impressive. Incredibly special!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Dear God, I am full of praise and excitement to honor you on Christmas Day for entering our world and human experience as a helpless child. Amen.

*Blessings as we await the Advent
of Christmas
—Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Ecclesiastes 7

Monday: Ecclesiastes 8

Tuesday: Ecclesiastes 9

Wednesday: Ecclesiastes 10

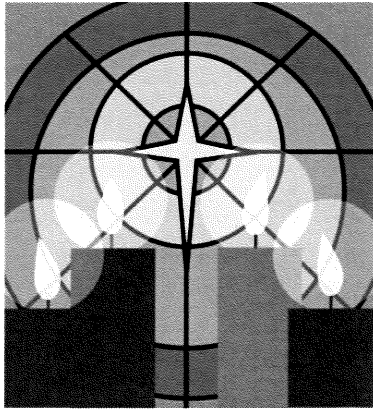
Thursday: Ecclesiastes 11

Friday: Ecclesiastes 12

Saturday: Song of Solomon 1-2

ZIG ZAG

Without lifting your pencil from the paper, move from square to square, vertically, horizontally or diagonally, to discover the longest possible name of a country from these letters.



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Z	E	D	N
W	T	R	A
I	S	L	P

PROGRESSIVE WORDS

Can you get from the first word to the last by changing just one letter in each step?

PANTS

RUSTY

JOKER

ROWED

ANSWERS: Zig Zag—Switzerland; Progressive Words—rants, runts, rusts, rusts; poker, power, mower, mowed