

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2022

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day / Their old, familiar carols play, /
And wild and sweet / The words repeat / Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Christmas Day has arrived. Hours upon hours have been spent shopping for gifts and wrapping the presents in bright-colored paper adorned with fancy, curly ribbons. Within minutes, the wrapping will be torn off by eager children. Perhaps the unwrapping took place last night on Christmas Eve.

In any case, these gifts are a reminder that, although we might *receive* some gifts, and we might *give* some gifts, the Gift we really remember is God's Gift to the world in the form of an infant — his Son, Jesus.

To understand the implications of this Gift, consider this possible scenario. Let's say that a daughter living in a far-off city sent her parents, now in their 70s, a brand spanking new laptop computer!

Oh, it was wonderful! The parents loved the slick sheen on the slender device. They liked the feel of it as they hefted it in their hands. They had used a computer before, of course — one of those with a tower that sat below a desk, and of course it had a keyboard and a "television screen," as the mother put it. Then it broke down, and since they were retired, they'd not thought it necessary to get a new one. Sometimes, they went to the library to check email. Now they had this wonderful new machine!

But, you know what? *They could not even turn it on!* They could not find the power button! Here's what the mother said to a friend a couple days later: "It was so thoughtful of our daughter to send us this gift, but to get this silly thing to work," she exclaimed, "I don't really need better directions; I just need my daughter to come along with the gift!"

There it is!

The insight to the meaning of Christmas.

When God gave the world the gift of salvation, God didn't send a booklet of complicated instructions for us to figure out. God sent his Son.

Let us give thanks for both the Gift and the Giver!

— Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, thank you for sending your Son to be born in a humble manger at Bethlehem. Thank you for sending One who can show us the way to life eternal. Amen.

*Merry Christmas!
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz Steven, Sara & Ethan*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Ecclesiastes 7-9

Monday: Ecclesiastes 10-12

Tuesday: Song of Solomon 1-2

Wednesday: Song of Solomon 3-4

Thursday: Song of Solomon 5-6

Friday: Song of Solomon 7-8

Saturday: Revelation 19-22

Congratulations on reading the Bible from cover to cover in one year!

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Christmas Trivia

Directions: Find the answers to the six categories in the group of words below.

1. Santa's reindeer

2. Things that are alive in the carol "The 12 Days of Christmas"

3. Names, according to myth, of the giver of Christmas gifts

4. Gifts of the Magi

5. Fanciful Christmas snowman

6. Christmas plants

Santa Claus

Calling birds

Frankincense

Frosty

Father Christmas

Kris Kringle

Dasher

Holly

Swan

Comet

Saint Nicholas

Prancer

Poinsettia

Partridge

Pelznickel

Ivy

Vixen

Rudolph

Myrrh

Geese

Mistletoe

French hens

Pipers

Blitzen

Gold



WISHING YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Answers: 1. Comet, Rudolph, Dasher, Prancer, Blitzen, Vixen; 2. French hens, partridge, geese, swan, calling birds, pipers; 3. Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Pelznickel; 4. myrrh, frankincense, gold; 5. Frosty; 6. poinsettia, holly, ivy, mistletoe.