

# THE BIRTH OF Christ

But the angel said to them,  
"Do not be afraid.  
I bring you good news  
that will cause great joy for all the people.  
Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to you;  
he is the Messiah, the Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11



# Merry Christmas!



## Not Only Christmas Day

Lord, this is my prayer  
Not only on Christmas Day  
But until I see you face to face  
May I live my life this way:

Just like the baby Jesus  
I ever hope to be,  
Resting in your loving arms  
Trusting in your sovereignty.

And like the growing Christ child  
In wisdom daily learning,  
May I ever seek to know you  
With my mind and spirit yearning.

Like the Son so faithful  
Let me follow in your light,  
Meek and bold, humble and strong  
Not afraid to face the night.

Nor cowardly to suffer  
And stand for truth alone,  
Knowing that your kingdom  
Awaits my going home.

Not afraid to sacrifice  
Though great may be the cost,  
Mindful how you rescued me  
From broken-hearted loss.

Like my risen Savior  
The babe, the child, the Son,  
May my life forever speak  
Of who you are and all you've done.

So while this world rejoices  
And celebrates your birth,  
I treasure you, the greatest gift  
Unequaled in your worth.

I long to hear the same words  
That welcomed home your Son,  
"Come, good and faithful servant,"  
Your Master says, "Well done."

And may heaven welcome others  
Who will join with me in praise  
Because I lived for Jesus Christ  
Not only Christmas Day

--By Mary Fairchild

Merry Christmas! Today is the day we have been preparing for throughout Advent. Jesus is born. Here is the story as recorded in Luke's Gospel.

“ In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, “Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.”

*All five candles are lit.*

We have been waiting for this day, Loving God. We have prepared ourselves for this special day. On this Christmas Day, let us live as those who let hope, peace, joy, and love reign in our lives. As the candles burn brightly and light our path, let us live as those who have the Christ's light burning inside us today and everyday. Amen.



# CHRISTMAS DAY

*you are loved*

