

## Feast Of Christmas

The feast of Christmas is a holy day because God has made it so. St. Paul, sums it up: "When the goodness and kindness of God our Saviour appeared, then not by reason of good works that we did ourselves, but according to His mercy, He saved us through the bath of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit; Whom He has abundantly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Saviour".

Men would be in a sorry state if that first Christmas had never happened. Sin had cast a deep shadow over the earth that left mankind to despair of the mercy of God, since all he had to live on was the promise of a Redeemer to come. Why a

Redeemer? It was as simple as the story of the human race that had turned its back on God in committing the first sin. Countless generations found themselves not friends of God but actually His enemy since they carried the stain of the first transgression.

The coming of Christ helped man to break the shackles of sin and gave him hope that he would be taken back into the love and friendship of God.

This is the joy of Christmas, this is the fulfillment of the longing of the centuries. Man was no longer cast adrift but was called to a new vocation, to recognize Christ the infant babe, as the Son of God and our brother.

We see God in a new dimension, the dimension of love and mercy. Let us, on this day, pray along with the church as she prays—"We bring you our offerings, O Lord in remembrance of the manifestation of your Son, born for us, humbly beseeching you, that as He is the Author of our gifts, so He may also, in His mercy accept them".

by Rev. Francis A. Kane  
Gate of Heaven Church

### From The Manger To The Cross

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

There appeared in the heavens an angel, and with him a throng of heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

Since this time, the traditional birthday of Christ has become the most important event in history. However, man seems to have forgotten THE REAL REASON that God became incarnate—that Christ was born to die!

Certainly, we should recognize the birth of the Saviour of man as a cause for much joy—but only because of the "path which led from the manger to the Cross of Calvary".

If Christ had not given His life—had not been buried—had never been resurrected, there would be no reason for joy in recalling His birth.

During this Christmas season, let us remember the WHOLE Christmas story, the WHOLE Gospel of Jesus Christ—from the manger to the cross—and beyond.

by Rev. William Hughes  
First Church of Christ  
Sweet Valley, Pa.

### Christ's Birthday

Holy Stranger,  
Asleep in a manger,  
Joseph and Mary near by.

Some shepards that night  
Saw a wonderous sight,  
A Heavenly Host on high.

Three kings from the East,  
On a two humped beast,  
Followed a star in the sky.

To adore the child,  
So holy and mild,  
All goodness and love in His sigh.

by Mary Catherine Stiles 4-104  
Gate of Heaven

### I Am Not Alone

This morning the telephone rang. The voice on the other end said, "Pastor, mother passed away this morning."

Is there no relief from this shadow of death that follows us from the cradle? Is there no purpose that does not end in the depths of the grave?

Without Christ, there is none.

The manger baby is the only hope I have. His are the only words that bring comfort to my soul. "He that lives and believes in me shall never die." Jesus is the only sun in my sky. He shines on me from above the horizon of the eternal morning and the shadow of death falls behind me. I walk in the sunlight.

Jesus is himself; the star of Bethlehem and Christmas is the cradle of my blessed hope.

by Rev. Grove Armstrong  
Trucksville Free Methodist

### The Christmas Tree

I have a little Christmas tree,  
It looks as pretty as can be.  
It's covered with tinsel, bulbs and lights.  
Aren't decorated trees beautiful sights?

by Harry Loomis  
Lake Elementary



by Charles Doron  
Dallas Sr. High School

## Christmas, 1963

As we stand on the threshold of another Christmas, the picture the world presents is in many ways a dark and foreboding one: But there was never a darker age in the world's history than that in which Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, made his appearance as a tiny baby in Bethlehem's manger.

That day was one of profound significance for all mankind. The angel's song proclaimed a Kingdom and a new King! God had come to earth to dwell among men!

The prophecy of peace on earth and good will to men has lost none of its meaning—within it still lies the unconquered territory of spiritual achievements. The King and the Kingdom are there for whosoever will proclaim Him and enter in.

There is no time for discouragement for those of us who profess the name of Christ. The world is beginning to find out that the only way of survival is in the way He pointed out to men. Journey again to Bethlehem this Christmas season and let your soul be filled with new joy and new dedication as you worship at the feet of Him who is the source of light for each of our lives.

Rev. Robert DeWitt Yost  
Shavertown Methodist Church

### Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas! The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Trucksville takes the opportunity to wish the residents of the Back Mountain area a season of joy and happiness.

May each individual feel the true spirit of Christ this Christmas. Let us especially teach our children why Christ came to the earth and why we worship Him. Make this a season of instruction to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

by Elder Riggs  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

### THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

When Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem, there came Wise Men from the East bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

A little shepherdess, watching from afar, wept because she had no gift to offer the Christ Child.

Where her tears fell to the ground, there sprang up flowers which she hastened to gather and bring to the Infant.

In adoration, she knelt at the crib, so Jesus could see the flowers, and where His blessed little hands touched the petals a delicate pink appeared. And so a flower that never bloomed before came into existence—the Christmas Rose.

To this day, the Christmas Rose blooms more abundantly at Christmas Time than at any other season.

From Mrs. James D. Hutchison



*"Neither let worry  
and care depress  
you—nor let them  
brush each day's  
joy away - - -*

*But rather, arise  
and give thanks  
to our Father  
above, for all His  
Love and another  
Blessed Day!"*

May the above thought carry you through the beautiful Christmas Season and with it, our prayers that you may have much Joy and Happiness.

*Alfred D. and Mildred A. Bronson*

LICENSED DIRECTORS

SWEET VALLEY

**Flowers  
and  
Greens  
Are Beautiful**

AT

**HENRY W.  
GOODMAN'S**

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