

Sanctuary First

A PLACE TO BE

Christmas Round the World, Advent 2018 (2-29 December)

This Advent we are celebrating Christmas round the world - exploring the various traditions that bring us together across oceans, across languages, and across time.

We want to highlight the global aspect of Christmas, a festival celebrated all over the world in a number of different ways. What can we learn from how others celebrate? Are there traditions we would like to bring into our home or our local community to help us see this familiar story in a new light?

We live in an interconnected world, 'a global village', a noisy, colourful, vibrant place. How can the story of Christmas - of God's journey to our world as a vulnerable refugee with a message of hope - inspire us in new ways to address inequality, conflict and suffering in our world?

Every week we will invite our writers to share a number of Christmas traditions from all over the globe. We will learn about how Christmas has changed the world and how it continues to change the world...

Each week of the theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and thought triggers.

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
02 December	Expectation, longing and anticipation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeremiah 33: 14-16 2. Psalm 25:1-10 3. 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 4. Luke 21: 25-36 5. Isaiah 2: 2-5 6. Romans 13: 11-14 7. Isaiah 9: 2-7 	<p>This week we focus on Christmas traditions that relate to expectation, longing and anticipation...</p> <p>Each week our writers will write about a mix of Christmas traditions from around the world such as the examples below, exploring the readings for each week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Christmas ritual • A song (could be a carol, a folk song, a Christmas Number one, an old hymn...) • A decoration (like a tree decoration, a wreath - anything else that is used to decorate at Christmas time) • A gift (traditional or specific, given or received) • A gathering (a meal, a service, some other kind of event) • A recipe • A card/message/letter <p>Our writers are encouraged to be flexible and do not need to stick to the above rigidly. They will read the reading - make a connection to a Christmas tradition somewhere in the world (such as one of the above, it could be something they do personally or know that others do) and will write a short reflection + prayer drawing these things together.</p>

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
09 December	Messengers and messages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Malachi 3: 1-4 2. Luke 1: 68-79 3. Philippians 1: 3-11 4. Luke 3: 1-6 5. Isaiah 11: 2-5 6. Matthew 3: 1-6 7. Luke 4: 14-21 	<p>This week we focus on Christmas traditions to do with sending and receiving messages...</p> <p>Each week our writers will write about a mix of Christmas traditions from around the world such as the examples below, exploring the readings for each week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Christmas ritual • A song (could be a carol, a folk song, a Christmas Number one, an old hymn...) • A decoration (like a tree decoration, a wreath - anything else that is used to decorate at Christmas time) • A gift (traditional or specific, given or received) • A gathering (a meal, a service, some other kind of event) • A recipe • A card/message/letter <p>Our writers are encouraged to be flexible and do not need to stick to the above rigidly. They will read the reading - make a connection to a Christmas tradition somewhere in the world (such as one of the above, it could be something they do personally or know that others do) and will write a short reflection + prayer drawing these things together.</p>
16 December	Rejoice, rejoice!	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zephaniah 3: 14-20 2. Isaiah 12: 2-6 3. Philippians 4: 4-7 4. Luke 3: 7-18 5. Romans 5: 1-11 6. Romans 12: 10-15 7. Luke 1: 8-14 	<p>This week we focus on Christmas traditions to do with rejoicing and celebrating...</p> <p>Each week our writers will write about a mix of Christmas traditions from around the world such as the examples below, exploring the readings for each week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Christmas ritual • A song (could be a carol, a folk song, a Christmas Number one, an old hymn...) • A decoration (like a tree decoration, a wreath - anything else that is used to decorate at Christmas time) • A gift (traditional or specific, given or received) • A gathering (a meal, a service, some other kind of event) • A recipe • A card/message/letter <p>Our writers are encouraged to be flexible and do not need to stick to the above rigidly. They will read the reading - make a connection to a Christmas tradition somewhere in the world (such as one of the above, it could be something they do personally or know that others do) and will write a short reflection + prayer drawing these things together.</p>

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
23 December	The World's Shepherd	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Luke 1: 39-45 2. Luke 1: 46-55 3. Luke 2: 8-20 4. Micah 5: 2-4 5. Psalm 80: 1-7 6. Psalm 23 7. John 10: 7-18 	<p>This week we focus on Christmas traditions about blessings, shepherds, and the person of Jesus!</p> <p>Each week our writers will write about a mix of Christmas traditions from around the world such as the examples below, exploring the readings for each week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Christmas ritual • A song (could be a carol, a folk song, a Christmas Number one, an old hymn...) • A decoration (like a tree decoration, a wreath - anything else that is used to decorate at Christmas time) • A gift (traditional or specific, given or received) • A gathering (a meal, a service, some other kind of event) • A recipe • A card/message/letter <p>Our writers are encouraged to be flexible and do not need to stick to the above rigidly. They will read the reading - make a connection to a Christmas tradition somewhere in the world (such as one of the above, it could be something they do personally or know that others do) and will write a short reflection + prayer drawing these things together.</p>