

The True Gift™

Christmas Tradition started in 2014 Organized by Heidi O. Shearer

Introduction-Why are we doing this?

- **Psalm 78:3 & 4**
 - “Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but we will tell to the generation to come the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonderful works that He has performed.”
- **Isaiah 59:21-21 (NIV)**
 - “As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord. “My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever,” says the Lord.”
- **Hebrews 6:19-20 (NIV)**
 - “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

“Who is this man?” video by John Ortberg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w09vlvaXvP4>

Candles:

- Prophecy Candle
 - There are hundreds of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled in the Old Testament.
 - **The first → Genesis 3:14**
 - “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring^[a] and hers; he will crush^[b] your head,”
 - God said this in the middle of pronouncing the curses resulting from the Fall. Even in the midst of our depravity God had a plan to save us!
 - **The most famous → Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)**
 - “Therefore the Lord himself will give you^[a] a sign: The virgin^[b] will conceive and give birth to a son, and^[c] will call him Immanuel.”
 - The northern half of the kingdom of Israel had been captured and taken into exile by Assyria. The southern part (Judah) saw the writing on the wall that they were about to be conquered. All was lost, all was hopeless. This scripture was said immediately after pronouncing their judgment. Again, God has a plan for redemption in the midst of man’s depravity.
 - The last prophecies of the Messiah were in Malachi, given 430 years before Jesus birth!
- Birth Candle
 - **Matthew 1:18-23 (NIV)**
 - “This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is

conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, ^[c] because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” ^[d] (which means “God with us”).”

- Death Candle

- **1 Peter 3:18**

- “Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God”

- Before Jesus’ death, the Old Covenant sacrificial system meant that an animal had to be sacrificed to atone for sin. But we all sin all the time! Can you imagine having to do that over and over again? In God’s grace he offered that temporary solution, but he offers a permanent solution through Christ’s death on the cross.

- **Hebrews 9:12-14**

- “[Christ] entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit ^[k] offered himself without blemish to God, purify our ^[l] conscience from dead works to worship the living God!”

- Resurrection Candle

- **Mark 16:1-7 (NIV)**

- “When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

- Ascension Candle

- **Luke 24:50-52 (NIV)**

- “When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”

Video “Mary Did You know” Ceelo Green

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1ptNwE7K8o>

Or from The Bible series <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z-ZfAlrgJs>

Gifts:

- About the Gifts
 - **Romans 11:29**
 - “For God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.”
 - **James 1:17 (NIV)**
 - “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”
- The Gift of the Holy Spirit
 - **John 14:16, 24**
 - “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,^[a] to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth... the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
 - “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”
- The Gift of Forgiveness
 - **1 John 1:9 (NIV)**
 - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- The Gift of Salvation
 - **Romans 6:23**
 - “For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.”
- The Gift of Security
 - **John 10:27-28**
 - “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.”
- The Spiritual Gifts for Believers
 - **1 Corinthians 12 (NIV)**
 - “Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed... no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”
- The Gift of Prayer
 - **Hebrews 4:16**
 - [Because of Jesus’ perfect sacrifice] “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
- The Gift of our Eternal Home
 - **John 14:2 (NIV)**
 - “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?”
- The Gift of Protection
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)**

- “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”
- The Gift of Hope
 - **Romans 15:13**
 - “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. “
- The Gift of Peace
 - **Philippians 4:6-7**
 - “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
- The Gift of Love
 - **1 Thessalonians 3:12**
 - “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.”

**Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy (w/lyrics) by Chris Tomlin or
Joy to the World w/ Lyrics (Jeremy Camp) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sdRy45VN-g>**