

Discuss:

Discuss the following questions together:

- Read Luke 2:19-20 – In what different ways did Mary and the Shepherds respond to the miraculous moment of Jesus' birth?
- What does Christmas mean to you?
- How would you explain who Jesus is?

Worship in Giving:

Christmas is when God gave humanity/us the greatest most valuable gift of all time. One we desperately needed and could never purchase. One way we can carry that eternally life changing message forward to others is through our giving.

Scan the QR code below, or visit our website at churchonthecorner.us and click on the Online Giving button:



Closing Prayer:

Thank You Heavenly Father, for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to earth on that first Christmas day 2000 years ago. Like Mary, please help us to ponder with joy all the truths You have revealed in our heart. But also like the Shepherds in the field, please help us to boldly proclaim these truths so that your truth and light may shine forth in a world filled with darkness, and so that all may know that Jesus is the Messiah & Savior of the World!
In Jesus Name, Amen!



NEW YEARS EVE
SUNDAY, Dec 31st, 2023



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Begin your time together by lighting a candle to serve as a reminder that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

Sing: Joy to the World
(See pg. 14 in Christmas Caroling Songbook)

Reflection:

There is so much excitement surrounding the celebration of Christmas. Yet, the days following can feel somewhat empty. What does it all mean?

In the days, months, and years following Jesus' birth, many encountered this child with an understanding that there was something extraordinary about him.

Eight days after Jesus' birth, his parents presented him to the Temple priests in Jerusalem to offer him up to the Lord. The Holy Spirit led a devout man named Simeon to the Temple. Simeon's response to seeing the infant Jesus was to share the following praise:

Luke 2:29-32 (NLT)

"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

A few years later, the Magi, or Wisemen from the East, likely from Persia, or modern-day Iran, followed the Word of God and the light of a star to the exact spot where this child was staying. When the Magi encountered the child, Jesus, their response was to bow down and worship him, and to offer him gifts fit for a king:

Matthew 2:10-11 NLT

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Both Simeon and the Magi knew that Jesus was more than an ordinary human-being. He was, as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed 700 years earlier, Emmanuel, which means "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23). He was the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14). He was the Savior of the World come to save us from our sins and to give us eternal life (John 3:16).

John 1:9-12 NIV

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—"

Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(See pg. 19 in Christmas Caroling Songbook)