

DECEMBER 24, 2022  
CHRISTMAS EVE



*Jesus is born as the Prince of Peace.*

### CHRISTMAS EVE BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas Eve celebration.

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b>	<b>A child is born</b>
	<b>Luke 2:1-20</b>	<b>The birth of Jesus</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for Christmas Eve:**

Glory to you O God, glory to you Lord Christ; lead us to praise you and to trust your reign of hope, peace, joy, and love now and always. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Now the silence, now the peace, we pray that all hunger in the world may cease. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the news of Jesus' birth give you peace and joy now and always.

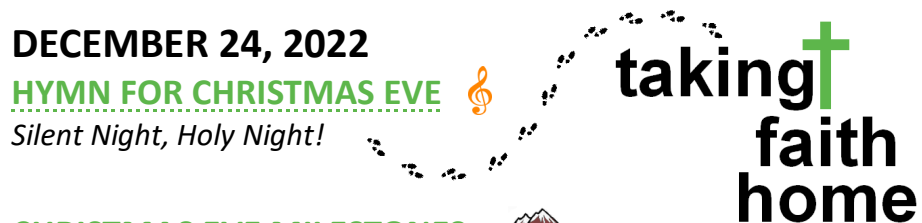


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### HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*



### CHRISTMAS EVE MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you look forward to doing on Christmas Eve?
- Jesus is called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” What do each of these names mean to you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 2:1-20.

The story of Jesus' birth begins within an international and political context: Emperor Augustus is dictating orders from Rome, Quirinius is governor of Syria, and occupation forces control the land of Jesus' birth. The decree has to do with taxes and keeping control of the people. People are forced to be registered in their hometowns. As a result, Joseph and Mary, poor and vulnerable and expecting their first child, have to travel from Nazareth to Joseph's home town of Bethlehem. God's entry into the world is announced by angels sent to shepherds in the fields. Shepherds, the least influential group, become the first evangelists, messengers with good news—the best news ever. Mary ponders, shepherds rejoice, and the Roman government has no idea how the world is turning away from its grip. God is unleashing a power that shakes the foundations of the mighty through a defenseless baby soon to be celebrated as “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

*Discuss:* How do you see the good news of Jesus' birth shaping the world in which you live?

*Pray:* **Lord God, for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that changes everything for us and for the world, we give you thanks for your promise of life and peace and salvation. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you help others to know of God's love through Jesus?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepared our hearts and minds for the day of Jesus' birth and his coming again. Light the four candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent wreath. Then light the white one, the Christ candle, in the center of the wreath. This night, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. Dim the lights in the room and have a moment of silence to gaze upon the candles.

*Leader:* **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.** (Isaiah 9:2)

*All:* **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)