

A gift of

Christmas



The **Methodist** Church



He's on His way

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**Christmas
starts
with
Christ**

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You have found favour with **God**

...the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary... The angel

said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus

Luke 1: 26-27, 30-31 (NRSV)



The Annunciation by Eric Gill, used with permission. This image is held in the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art.

For more information on the collection visit: www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Mary found true favour with the Lord
yet she trembled at his strange reward
knew this was the special One,
hope for many through God's Son

Clare Stainsby, used with permission. This verse is from a hymn in the new Methodist hymn collection, 'Singing the Faith'. For more information visit www.singingthefaith.org.uk

Mary came to **Bethlehem**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered...

All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Luke 2:1, 3-5 (NRSV)

When Mary came to Bethlehem long ago

she found no room inside the inn, nowhere to go:

'We've no more space for trav'lers, we have no room at all.

The best that we can offer is a cattle stall.'

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and **laid him** in a manger

...the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.

Luke 2:6-7 (NRSV)



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See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore-
the prince of glory is his name.

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Christ your Saviour has come

Heaven invites you to a party,
to celebrate the birth of a Son;
angels rejoicing in the starlight,
singing, 'Christ your Saviour has come.'

Graham Kendrick

© 1988 Make Way Music. www.grahamkendrick.co.uk

Before we came to church,
God longed for us to come
God's love invites us in,
wants us to feel at home.

Wherever we may be,
our God has been before
and Jesus is the key
to open every door.

Fred Kaan

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Joseph's embrace

Bethlehem bound they come
Botticelli, Bruegel, Giotto et al
with palette, easel and oils, to paint our baby.
Centred, shining, Jesus lights the scene,
held treasured by Mary in serene blue.
Ruddy shepherds and lustrous Magi complete the tableaux.
These artists paint me, Joseph,
into the shadows with ox and ass.
But, when they are done, when they are gone,
then I get to hold the baby.

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For further Christmas resources, including a free downloadable nativity play script
by this author, visit www.methodist.org.uk/gift

Angels appeared to them



“Then to the watchful
shepherds it was told, who
heard the angelic heralds voice
‘behold, I bring good tidings
of a saviours birth to you and
all the nations upon earth,
this day has God fulfilled his
promised word, this day is born
a saviour Christ the Lord.”

John Byrom (1692 -1763)

Shepherds were in the fields,
watching their sheep that night.
Angels appeared to them in
glorious, radiant light

There in the stable bare,
our Lord and Saviour born.
God has come to the earth
and taken human form!

Stephen Page,

*used with permission. These verses are
from a hymn in the new Methodist hymn
collection, ‘Singing the Faith’. For more
information visit www.singingthefaith.org.uk*

The **star** shines out

The star shines out with a steadfast ray, the kings to Bethlehem make their way, and there in worship they bend the knee as Marys child in her lap they see. Their royal gifts they show to the king, gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*'Three kings from
Persian lands a-far'*

*tr. by H.N. Bate
from 'The Oxford
Book of Carols'*

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*Three Kings by
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of Modern
Christian Art.*



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Jesus is the heart



Jesus is the heart of Christmas
Give the Lord his rightful place!
Garlands, glisten with his charisma,
Tinsel, glisten with his grace!
Jesus is the heart of Christmas
Welcome him with love and praise!



Jesus is the heart of Christmas
Light your candles from his flame!
Hang your holly in his honour
Trim each fir tree in his name!
Jesus is the heart of Christmas
Celebrate the day he came!

Marguerite Kendrick, used with permission. These verses are from a hymn in the new Methodist hymn



He who has
not Christmas
in his heart

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of Christmas

Jesus is the heart of Christmas,
share him in each card you send.
Give each gift in love and friendship
share his gifts which have no end
Jesus is the heart of Christmas
Lord and Saviour, Guide and Friend.



Jesus is the heart of Christmas,
Find his peace on busy days.
May the messages of Advent
Guide us through the Christmas maze.
Jesus is the heart of Christmas,
Sing each carol in his praise!

*collection, 'Singing the Faith'. For more
information visit www.singingthefait.org.uk*

will never find
it under a tree.

- Dr. Roy L. Smith (1887-1963)

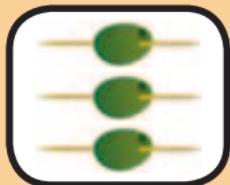


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Christingle service

Many churches hold Christingle services at Christmas - Christingle means 'Christ's Light'. The custom of giving out lighted candles in these services originates from the Moravian Church in Germany in 1747 but wasn't introduced to the United Kingdom until the late 1960's.

Christingles are made up of different parts, each with a different meaning. The orange represents the world and the candle is Jesus - the light of the world. The red ribbon goes all round the 'world' and reminds us of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us. The four cocktail sticks could have either of two meanings: the four seasons or the four corners of the world and the sweets (or sometimes dried fruit) remind us of God's gifts to the world including kindness and love.



Round orange, round orange, you serve as a sign
That God made the round world with purpose divine.

Red ribbon, you tell of the bloodshed and pain
Which led to forgiveness when Jesus was slain.

Ripe fruits, freely given, this truth you recall,
When God hands out presents they're meant for us all

Bright candle, the message you carry is clear,
The true light from God found a home with us here.

Christingle, christingle, shine out in the night
To kindle among us that marvellous light.

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Christ(mas) for you

Born in a stinking mess
To a young couple far from home
God broke into the world
Recognised by some, ignored by many.

Born into an occupied land
Frightened shepherds heard angels
sing
God broke into the world
Surprising those who heard the
message

Born a Jewish man
Wise men from the East came to visit
God broke into the world
Keeping away from Kings and Palaces

Born for us today
To all who will hear and respond
God breaks into open hearts and lives
Disturbing, challenging, transforming
Emmanuel: God with us.

Deacon Eunice Attwood,

Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2010/11



Disturbing



Challenging



Transforming



Emmanuel: God with us

Greetings from around the world

The Methodist Church in Britain is part of a worldwide movement with a total membership of over 70 million. In some of our many languages, we wish you...

Feliz Navidad

Afi nhyia pa

Nadolig Llawen

E ku odun o, emi a so po e

Nimalaj Quicotemal
ri Alaxbal

Joyeux Noël

শুভ বর্জদিন

Fröhliche Weihnachten

Barka da Kirsimatikuma

Vasel Koleda



Happy Christmas



Jwaye Nowè!

Krismas Njema Na Heri
Za Mwaka Mpya

Nollaig chridheil huibh

Wadho Diyan Mubbarik

Nollaig Shona Duit

恭祝聖誕
新年蒙恩

Prettige Kerstdagen

Feliz Natal

Bara Dinn Mubarik Ho

Ashamsakal

শুভ ক্রিস্টমাস

शुभ क्रिष्मस

ख्रीष्मसको शुभकामना

A gift of

Christmas

is a gift from

The **Methodist** Church 

This booklet is available as a PowerPoint presentation and can be downloaded from www.methodist.org.uk/powerpoint

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