



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

January 4, 2015

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:[1-9] 10-18



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. *John 1:14*

You Shall Call His Name Jesus. *Object:* A book on the meaning of names.

This is the second Sunday after Christmas. It has been hardly more than a week since we were celebrating, opening gifts, and eating a huge Christmas dinner. What is left of the Christmas celebration? A trash bag full of used wrapping paper and empty boxes. The Christmas tree and all the decorations have been taken down and stored in the attic for another year. Christmas is over and our lives have returned to normal. It is back to work for the adults and back to school for the children. Yes, Christmas is over -- at least for another year.

Wait! Is it really over? Is that all there is to Christmas? Is it just a time for parties, giving gifts to friends and family, and a brief period of "Peace on earth, good will toward men?" Surely there is more to it than that.

Our Bible readings today reveal the true meaning of Christmas. The Bible says that, "The Word became flesh and came to live among us." The "Word" that the Bible is talking about is Jesus. He came, full of unfailing love, and we have seen his glory. We have seen the glory of God's only begotten Son.

What did you get for Christmas? No doubt you received some toys and clothes, but the most important gift any of us received was Jesus who came to earth as a gift from God. To those who receive him and believe in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.

Jesus came to the world, but many did not recognize him. For those who do not know the Savior, Christmas is over. But for those of us who received the gift of the Father, Christmas goes on all year long.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love and for the gift of your Son, for it is through that gift that we also become your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Alleluia (Ps. 98:3)

Word Search Puzzle

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X I A I E R R S D W E L L G L
G N Z M J E E T Q J E S U S Q
R S A P H O H C E C H V S S X
A N E T A G D N E S N H T V T
C B A E I W E Z Y I T M O J R
E F N R N R O Z R L V I B C U
K L W L D C E R G K T E F B T
A A F L Z V E E L X N M B Y H
I M I B G N N D V D O O Y O W
E H B L E S S I N G W R W S F
C B G O D L C U B M O Y F N L
W Q R O B Y I W F L E S H B G
O O D F M O A E G J X M A N C
X Y R Q T N R Q V X S G U R C
I B W D V Q X N H E G R H X G

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JESUS	GLORY	DWELL	FATHER	RECEIVE
KNOWN	BLESSING	BELIEVE	WORLD	TESTIFY
FLESH	SEEN	CHILDREN	WORD	GOD
BORN	TRUTH	NAME	GRACE	RIGHT

FIND JESUS GAME: Use the trash bag filled with used wrapping paper and place a picture of Jesus or a small "baby Jesus" from a nativity set and let teams try to FIND JESUS in the wrappings. Time each group to see which group finds Jesus first -- after each group finding Jesus, that group must put the wrappings back in the bag for the next team to play.

GIFT OPENING: When children arrive to class, the teacher can have a large wrapped gift on the wall - such as a Christmas wrapping on a bulletin board or over a picture. Before the teacher covers with the wrapping paper, place large letters for J-E-S-U-S and then cover with the paper. After children are all seated and after game time, let the children tear off the wrapping paper and see that JESUS is the best gift for the whole year!! Let the torn wrappings hang from the "gift" for the remainder of class.

CROSS GIFT: Provide children with construction paper to trace and cut out a cross. Fold the cut out and decorated cross 4 times and wrap in tissue paper. On the cross - write, "Thank you Jesus for the gift of your SON". Encourage children to share their wrapped cross with at least 5 people!

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
John 10:14

