

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

January 3, 2016

Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1[1-9] 10-18



Is Christmas Really Over? Object: A trash bag filled with used wrapping paper and empty boxes.

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.

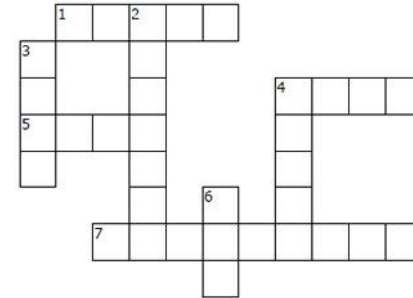
What did you get for Christmas? No doubt you received some toys and clothes, but the most important gift any of us received was Jesus who came to earth as a gift from God. To those who receive him and believe in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.

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 (Psalm 98:3)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. The earth and all its inhabitants
- 4. The place where a person lives
- 5. A word or words that a person is known by
- 7. To know someone because you have seen them before

DOWN

- 2. To get or be given something
- 3. Male descendants
- 4. A man, woman, or child; a person
- 6. The creator of and ruler of the earth and its people

SONS	RECOGNIZE	NAME	HUMAN
GOD	HOME	WORLD	RECEIVE

CHRISTMAS BELL FILL IN THE BLANKS: Draw a large bell for each child to cut out and decorate around the edges with Ric Rac or glitter. Give each child a piece of paper with these words from our lesson written on it with a few key words missing that the children will fill in after gluing it on to the bell. THE W_____ became flesh and came to live among us. The "W_____" that the B_____ is talking about is J_____. He came, full of L_____, and we have seen His glory. We have seen the glory of God's only begotten S_____."

ALL YEAR CHART: Give each child a sheet of construction paper and provide them with magazine pictures and words that you have cut out of things that we have all year long. (For example: JESUS, friends, family, school, work, God's love, home, clothes, and church.) Have the children write ALL YEAR WE HAVE..... and then glue the words and pictures of things that we'll have all year on the poster.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND
MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US.

JOHN 1:14

