

**Merry Christmas
and Welcome to Unity
of Bakersfield's
Christmas Eve
Candle Lighting Service**



Christmas Message

It has been said that: *Christmas is the last of the great festivals still with us - because of the feelings of nostalgia, warmth, joy, love, and light it brings.*

The spirit that is Christmas cannot be found in things but in the intangible essence of love expressing as compassion, forgiveness, encouragement, sharing, giving, and joy.

Christmas Message

The spirit of Christmas lives and moves and has its very being within the midst of us. Paul called it the "Christ in you, your hope of glory." Christmas is the one time of year that we focus our awareness on what the birth of Jesus represents in our lives and affairs. His wonderful teachings of love, light, peace and compassion are the very spirit of what Christmas is really about. These activities are summed up in this poem:

Christmas Message

The Spirit of Christmas

I enter the home of poverty,
causing pale-faced children to open their
eyes wide in pleased wonder.
I cause the miser's clutched hand to relax,
and thus paint a bright spot on his soul.
I cause the aged to renew their youth
and to laugh in the glad old way.

Christmas Message

I keep romance alive in the heart of childhood,
and brighten sleep with dreams woven of
magic.
I cause eager feet to climb dark stairways with
filled baskets, leaving behind hearts amazed at
the goodness of the world.
I cause the prodigal to pause a moment on his
wild, wasteful way, and send to anxious love
some little token that releases glad tears -
tears which wash away the hard lines of sorrow.

Christmas Message

I enter dark prison cells, reminding scarred
manhood of what might have been, and
pointing forward to good days yet to come.
I come softly into the still, white home of pain,
and lips that are too weak to speak just tremble
in silent, eloquent gratitude.
In a thousand ways I cause the weary world to
look up into the face of God and for a little
moment forget the things that are small and
wretched. I am the Spirit of Christmas.

Christmas Message

If you or someone you know is in the midst of a challenge, know for yourself and them that the spirit of Christmas is always there to assist you and your loved ones.

And so we affirm: As the Spirit of Christmas fills my soul, I experience a rebirth-an awakening of the Christ within.

In preparation of lighting our candles I invite you to join me in the responsive reading on the inside of your bulletin.

Responsive Reading: Minister

The Angel Gabriel, which was sent unto Mary, represents that in you which announces the coming of great good into your life. It is the inspiration of Truth which tells you that wonderful ideas can be born through you.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I am open and receptive to the inspiration of divine ideas. My faith is quickened, and I perceive a whole new world of good.

Responsive Reading: Minister

Mary, Mother of Jesus, represents the ideal emotional state through which great things are born in you. Mary is a virgin, which means pure, undefiled emotions, free from worry, fear, selfishness and guilt. Peaceful, loving feelings are the mother of all creation.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I am cleansed and free of limiting emotional attitudes. I am a radiating center of divine love.

Responsive Reading: Minister

Joseph represents positive, constructive thinking, the true mate of pure emotions. This is the intellectual state which affirms that which is true and right; and which consents to the birth of a new idea in you.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I center my mind on the reality of truth. I say Yes to the good. I say Yes to life. I say Yes to unlimited Christ ideas.

Responsive Reading: Minister

In this combination of mind and heart, the Christ idea will be conceived. But, often there is not room in our soul for new ideas because we are too filled with worldly concerns. This is represented by the Innkeeper at Bethlehem.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I expect outer conditions in my life to manifest in an orderly, prosperous, harmonious way. I put God first, and open the door of my mind to greater good.

Responsive Reading: Minister

The baby Jesus represents the birth of the very best in you. The Christ is born in you as joy, love, and new ideas. You nurture and protect this realization until it matures as master and lord of your life.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I accept the greater potential of the Christ in me. I give my whole attention to my higher self, with all my thoughts, words and activities.

Responsive Reading: Minister

The shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem represent a guiding attitude in you which is willing to be influenced by the new realization of the Christ.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I release old thoughts and beliefs which hold me in bondage to past experiences. I am flexible, eager and free to follow my inner guidance.

Responsive Reading: Minister

The wise men represent your latent talents and abilities. If you follow your spiritual motivation, symbolized by a star, you will be led to a new life of self-fulfillment. Gifts of life, beauty, and prosperity will be yours to give your world.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I give thanks for the gift of inspiration. I am inspired to do my best in all things, and I joyously share my good with others.

Responsive Reading: Minister

The true light of Christ is the divinity in you. Christmas is any time you allow the self you are meant to be to emerge into prominence in your life and affairs.

Responsive Reading: Congregation

I now attune myself to the Christ presence within and give it permission to manifest through me as love, light, abundance and wholeness. Thank you, God.



Disciple Readings and the Lighting of Candles

