

ADVENT 2020



# Come Home for Christmas

COME HOME TO HOPE



 Park Cities  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# Come Home for Christmas

COME HOME TO HOPE

**W**hen we think about coming home for Christmas, nostalgia and reality often collide.

The result can be as messy as the kitchen after a day spent baking Christmas cookies, the living room after a Saturday morning of tree trimming, or the bedroom after a late night wrapping presents.

As we look forward to Christmas in 2020, the collision of gratitude and grief is as real as ever.

Every Sunday morning throughout this Christmas season, we invite you to join us in-person or online at [pcbc.org/live](https://pcbc.org/live) as we respond to Jesus' invitation to come home to hope, peace, joy, and love in him this Christmas.

Each day leading up to Christmas Day, we have provided a Bible verse and an encouraging thought for you to receive as you begin or end your day. The daily readings are opportunities for us to dive deeper into the feelings of hope, peace, joy, and love that we long to feel when we come home for Christmas—especially this year.

Whether you have experienced these feelings in Christmas homecomings of the past or not, our prayer is you will taste and see for yourself that every one of your deepest longings can be met fully in the gift of Jesus Christ this Christmas.

We invite you to come home for Christmas.

May we all discover home is not far from any one of us as we come home to Jesus, who came to make his home with us so long ago.

With love, joy, peace, and hope,

Merry Christmas from the PCBC family!

DAY 1

SUNDAY

NOV  
29

Come Home  
to Hope

LAMENTATIONS 3:28–29 MSG

**When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions: Wait for hope to appear.**

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Wait for hope to appear. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for “wait” also means “hope.” As we look forward to Christmas, we imagine what it felt like for God’s people to await the birth of their promised King Jesus – the Hope of Nations.

The people of God were suffering in silence, and at just the right time, Jesus was born. Jesus’ coming would change the world – one bowed heart at a time.

When we encounter the real, living Jesus, we are changed.

Jesus came to rescue us then, and Jesus will come to rescue us again. Until that day, he invites us to steal away in the silence, to lay our burdens before him, and to wait in hope for his rescue. He is sure to come.

Jesus is calling us to come home to him this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to hope.

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*As we begin this Christmas season, what is heavy and hard to take? Take some time to sit in silence and listen. Watch and wait for God to free you from the weight of your burdens. Let God’s hope be all you cling to today.*

Worship with us at  
9 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 1 p.m.  
[pcbc.org/live](http://pcbc.org/live)

Find today’s Sermon  
Response Guide here!



DAY 2

MONDAY

NOV  
30



Come Home  
to Presence

ISAIAH 8:10 MSG

**Because when all is said and done,  
the last word is Immanuel—God-With-Us.**

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Built into the name and nature of Jesus is the nearness of God: God with us.

God chooses to be present with us in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live with us so many Christmases ago so we could live with God. From the start, God created each one of us to be with God. In every breath, God invites us to find our home in God, and to share our home with others.

Whether your house is packed or empty, it is easy to feel alone this Christmas. In Jesus, you are never alone. When all is said and done, there is Jesus. Only Jesus remains. And yet, Jesus remains with us. Jesus is God with us.

We celebrate Jesus' birthday by giving gifts to one another because Jesus' birth is a gift to us. The greatest gift Jesus gives us is himself – the presence of his Holy Spirit who makes a home in us.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his presence this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to hope.

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*What has had the last word and left you feeling hopeless lately? Replace it with the name of Jesus. Stop and say out loud, "Jesus is God with us. Jesus is God with me. Because of Jesus, God is with me. I am never alone in Jesus." Let Jesus have the last word today. May the name and presence of Jesus bring you home to hope.*

✦ **For further reading: Isaiah 43:1–7, Matthew 28:18–20**

DAY 3

TUESDAY

DEC.  
1



## COME HOME TO FORGIVENESS

PSALM 130:3-4 MSG

**If you, GOD, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance? As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that's why you're worshiped.**

Whenever we come home for Christmas, we may be met with pain we manage to ignore most other days. The hurt of bitterness and regret burns deep – sometimes so deep it keeps us from coming home to gather with family for Christmas. Sometimes it keeps us from coming home to Jesus, too.

God doesn't just forgive. It is God's habit to forgive. God keeps shaking forgiveness on us like a never-ending bottle of Christmas sprinkles.

Jesus took every one of our bad habits and wrongdoings upon himself when he died on the cross for us. As Jesus' blood spilled onto the ground, God's unending forgiveness spilled onto us. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so we could forever be forgiven.

God had it in mind to forgive us long before Jesus died. In the birth of Jesus, God made a way for us to know forgiveness.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his forgiveness this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to hope.

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*Who do you need to forgive this Christmas? Who needs to forgive you? God is a God of forgiveness and second chances. This has been a hard year for all of us, but it does not have to end in bitterness and regret. Embrace the forgiveness God has already given you in Jesus. Then, extend God's forgiveness to others, and to yourself.*

◆ **For further reading: Isaiah 55:6-7, Psalm 30:2-3**

DAY 4

WEDNESDAY

DEC.  
2



## COME HOME TO HELP

PSALM 34:17 MSG

**Is anyone crying for help? GOD is listening, ready to rescue you.**

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There is so much chaos in the world today. Everywhere people are dying, people are lying, people are sighing, and people are crying. How can we ask for help when the whole world needs it? And even if we did, who would ever hear us? And even if someone did hear us, who would go out of their way to do something about it?

Jesus.

Jesus went out of his way to live with us, Jesus went out of his way to die for us, and Jesus will always go out of his way to help us. No matter who you are, no matter where you've been, and no matter how you got stuck, God's arms are wide open and ready

to rescue you from the depths of your chaos. God wants to help you. Will you cry out for God?

Jesus was born into a world of chaos, and the sound of his cry resounds to the ends of eternity. Surely, he will hear you crying. And most assuredly, he will answer.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his help this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to hope.

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*No burden is too small or too big for the Maker of Heaven and Earth. What do you need to ask God to help you with? Cry out to God, who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine according to God's power at work within us. Wait for hope to appear. Jesus is here, and Jesus is coming.*

◆ **For further reading: Psalm 55:16-18, Isaiah 63:8-9**

DAY 5

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 3

# Come Home to Wisdom



PSALM 119:92-94 MSG

**If your revelation hadn't delighted me so, I would have given up when the hard times came. But I'll never forget the advice you gave me; you saved my life with those wise words. Save me! I'm all yours. I look high and low for your words of wisdom.**

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It is not uncommon for family to offer unsolicited (and often unwanted) advice. But what if their advice could save your life? When God offers us advice, we should listen. God doesn't just want what's best for us. God also knows what's best for us and provides what's best for us.

What if, rather than hiding from home when we lose our way, we run home? What if, rather than giving up when hard times come, we look up?

God has shown us the way to life-saving wisdom, and it is by God's Word. First and foremost, the Word who "became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood," (John 1:14). That is, Jesus. But also, by the words of God written for us in the Bible.

There is much-needed wisdom and advice on those extra-thin pages of black and white. Better yet, there is someone who meets you there who has the power and desire to save your life. All is not yet lost. Open up the word of God and listen for God's Word.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his wisdom this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to hope.

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*Where are you struggling to find your way? What is it in this season that leaves you feeling disoriented and discouraged? Reflect on the Bible verses from today's reading. Ask God to give you wisdom. Then, when God does, ask God to give you the courage to walk in it. God's way always requires tremendous trust, so it's a good thing God is totally trustworthy.*

✦ **For further reading: Job 12:13, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

DAY 6

FRIDAY

DEC.

4



## COME HOME TO CONFIDENCE

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12–13 MSG

**Forget about selfconfidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence. No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.**

Have you ever trusted someone who ended up letting you down? Have you ever disappointed someone who believed in you? The world says believe in yourself. If you can dream it, you can do it. But that's not what Jesus says.

Jesus says, believe in me.

Not believe in me, and such-and-such will happen. Simply, believe in me. But here is what is bound to happen: when we start risking it all and really believing in Jesus, we will learn there is no such thing as risk in God's Kingdom.

There is no real risk when we are walking with Jesus, because we are with Jesus. Jesus never fails us, and Jesus never leaves us. Jesus is our help and our reward. When we believe in Jesus over-and-above anyone and everyone else, we are bound to grow in confidence.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his confidence this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to hope.

*Where are you lacking confidence today? Wherever we lack confidence is often an opportunity for us to trust God. When we choose to live life according to God's strength and capabilities rather than our own, we are free to hope. Ask God to help you live according to what only God can do—starting today.*

◆ **For further reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:11–13, Hebrews 10:22–25**

DAY 7

SATURDAY

DEC.

5



## COME HOME TO A CONSTANT FOUNDATION

ROMANS 15:4 MSG

**God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next.**

Ideally, our family serves as a constant foundation for us to come home to, especially at Christmas. Whether this is merely an ideal, or something very real for you, one thing is certain: there's a constant foundation in God's family.

God promises to never leave us or forsake us. God's steadfast love endures forever, and so does God's Word. God's character is unchanging. God is our sure, steady, constant, and familiar foundation.

God promises to carry us all the days of our lives. Though we stumble, we will never fall, because God holds us by the hand. Whenever God draws us near, God always sets our feet on solid ground. God is our rock-steady foundation, both now and forever.

This Christmas may feel nothing short of tumultuous, but God is sure to be nothing short of faithful.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his constant foundation this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to hope.

*Have you been adopted into God's family? If so, God gave you the Holy Spirit to cry out to God in the same way children cry out for their parents when they wake up in the middle of the night. If not, God wants to adopt you, but God's waiting for you to want to be God's child. Tell God you want to belong to God forever, and that's it—God adopts you and gives you a constant foundation to come home to always and forever.*

*As children of God, we're free to come boldly before God's throne of grace to receive God's help and God's own self anytime we want. What better time than now?*

◆ **For further reading: Psalm 89:1–2, Hebrews 11:1**



# Together Time

HOPE

Read this week's memory verse together:

LAMENTATIONS 3:28-29 MSG

**When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions. Wait for hope to appear.**

Respond to these questions together:

- 1: What does the word "hope" mean?
- 2: What is something you are hoping God will do in the future?
- 3: What can we do together to share the hope of Jesus and his birth with our neighbors this Christmas?

Play an old-fashioned game of hide-and-seek together:

Once everyone who was hiding has been found by the one seeking, talk about hope. Discuss how it felt for those who were hiding to look forward to being found by the one who was seeking.

◆ Discover more Christmas resources and activities at [pcbc.org/Christmas](http://pcbc.org/Christmas)

## Worship at Christmas | Hope

Close your eyes and listen to the classic Christmas song, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Then, read each verse of the song aloud as a time of devotion to God. Reflect on the lyric,

years with everlasting hope. Rarely do we take the time to dwell on this lyric at Christmas, yet history hinges on the birth of Jesus Christ, who forever shines the light of his hope into every fear that tries to hide in the darkness of our own hearts.

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth,  
the everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.*

Pause to consider how the birth of Jesus was God's way of meeting all our fears from all the



Enjoy the PCBC Christmas Playlist on Spotify here!

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gathered all a - bove, While mortals sleep, the  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and

dreamless sleep The si - lent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The ev - er -  
 an - gels keep Their watch of wond'ring love. O morn - ing stars, togeth - er Proclaim the  
 hu - man hearts The blessings of His heav'n. No ear may hear His coming, But in this  
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad

lasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 ho - ly birth! And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.  
 world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.  
 ti - dings tell; O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el. A - MEN.



DAY 8

SUNDAY

DEC  
6



Come Home  
to Peace

JOHN 14:27 MSG

**I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace.**

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We live in an age of health and wellness. Can you be well if you are not whole? Can you be whole if you are not at peace? Jesus knows the secret to wellness and wholeness is peace—his perfect peace that surpasses understanding.

Of all the gifts Jesus could give as his parting gift to us, he chose to give us peace. Because of Jesus, we have peace with God, peace with one another, and peace within ourselves as we await the day when we will finally see Jesus face-to-face.

“Peace on earth” is a popular phrase we often sing at Christmas. As we reflect on 2020, it may be difficult to sing “peace on earth” this year and mean it. Yet, peace has come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ—the Prince of Peace. Peace has come to us, peace has come to stay, and peace has come to reign.

Jesus gave us peace because Jesus gave us himself. First, Jesus gave his life for us. Then, Jesus gave his Holy Spirit to live in all of us who believe in him. The same Spirit of God who breathed, “Peace, be still,” to the raging sea in Mark 4:39, lives in us and breathes, “Peace, be still,” to our raging hearts today.

Jesus is calling us to come home to him this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

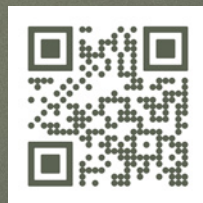
Come home to peace.

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*Have you experienced the peace of Jesus this year? If so, thank God for that. If not, ask Jesus to give you his peace that surpasses understanding. He is sure to answer. Of all the gifts you receive this Christmas, the greatest gift you can receive is God's peace, and it is yours for the taking (and yours for the giving).*

Worship with us at  
9 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 1 p.m.  
[pcbc.org/live](https://pcbc.org/live)

Find today's Sermon  
Response Guide here!



DAY 9

MONDAY  
**DEC.**  
**7**



**COME HOME  
TO PATIENCE**

JOEL 2:13 MSG

**Come back to GOD, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, This most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe.**

There's a reason "patience is in short supply" is a popular phrase we utter—especially at home. If 2020 has tested anything, it has tested our patience. We cry out with the psalmist, "How long, oh Lord?"

What if the deep breath God takes is one of grieving with us? Think about

Jesus' labored breathing on the cross. Perhaps Jesus also wondered, "How long, oh Lord?"

Surely, God grieved the death of God's only Son. But God grieved with hope, knowing Jesus' death would open the door for humanity to live as we were always meant to live—forever with God. If you think God's patience runs as thin as yours, think again. Three days after Jesus died, he rose from the grave. Grief never has the last word when Jesus is near.

These days, many are pleading, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus." But what if it's the other way around? What if, in our pleading, Jesus is the one crying out, "Come back to me?"

Jesus is calling us to come home to his patience this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to peace.

*If our patience is in short supply, it's because we're in short supply of peace. Where is your patience most lacking? That's likely where you're lacking God's peace. As you ask God for peace this week, ask God specifically for patience. Patience goes against every natural fiber of our being, but when we consider how patient God is with us, God makes us patient, too.*

◆ **For further reading: Exodus 34:4–7, Nehemiah 9:16–19**

DAY 10

TUESDAY  
**DEC.**  
**8**



**COME HOME  
TO COMFORT**

ISAIAH 66:13 MSG

**As a mother comforts her child, so I'll comfort you.**

The heart of the phrase, "there's no place like home," is comfort. Whether we find it or not, we long for the promised comfort of home. Since 2020 is the year of staying home and dressing for comfort, clothing companies across America are rolling out new collections boasting their comfort level. Even the blanket we sleep beneath at night is called a comforter.

God designed us to be wrapped in comfort.

From our first breath, we cry for our mother's comfort we've grown to know so well up until birth. When we think about the Christmas story and the famous nativity scene that goes with it,

we imagine Mary holding her newborn baby, Jesus.

As Jesus was nearing his death, he told his best friends it was better he go, so the Comforter would come. Jesus was referring to his Holy Spirit. Better than sitting at the table with Jesus, is his Spirit setting the table of our hearts.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his comfort this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to peace.

*Do you long for the comfort of Christmas? There's a reason predictable, happy-ending Hallmark Christmas movies are so popular. There's a reason we have a soft spot for family Christmas traditions. Though Hallmark is still airing new Christmas movies, other traditions we look forward to may not happen this Christmas. Take time to acknowledge your sadness in this season. Ask the God who lives to dwell within the deepest part of you to comfort you this Christmas as only God can do.*

◆ **For further reading: Isaiah 51:12, 2 Corinthians 1:3–5**

DAY 11

WEDNESDAY

DEC.  
9



**Come Home  
to Refuge**

PSALM 61:3-4 MSG

**You've always given me breathing room, a place to get away from it all, A lifetime pass to your safe-house, an open invitation as your guest.**

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Before 2020, whenever we said anything about “taking off our masks,” we were talking about feeling free to be our true selves. Now, we breathe a deep sigh of relief every time we step into a space where we don't have to wear a face mask. For many of us, that safe space to breathe free is home.

By definition, a refuge is a shelter from danger. You cannot know refuge without knowing danger. Refugees are those who flee danger in their home country in search of safety in another. Shortly after Jesus was born, God commanded Joseph (Jesus' adopted father) in a dream to flee from Israel to Egypt with his wife and child (Mary and Jesus) because king Herod sought to kill Jesus (Matthew 2:13).

Jesus was a refugee familiar with danger. From his birth in a wooden manger, to his death on a wooden cross, someone somewhere always wanted Jesus dead.

Whatever danger is beating down your door this Christmas, whether real or imagined, know that Jesus always offers us a getaway with him.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his refuge this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to peace.

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*To experience the refuge of Jesus does not mean we no longer face danger. Rather, it means we no longer live in fear of danger. While we inhabit this world, we can count on encountering fear each day. Life with Jesus is not about being fearless as much as knowing where fear lives. When we find our safe home in Jesus, we can leave fear at the door. What fear do you need to leave outside the door of your heart today?*

◆ **For further reading: Psalm 46:1-3, Nahum 1:7**

DAY 12

THURSDAY

DEC.  
10



COME HOME  
TO REST

MATTHEW 11:28–29 MSG

**Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest.**

“YOLO” (you only live once) has finally lost its place as a primary message in pop culture. Long-lost Disney diva Hannah Montana sang in her anthem, “Life’s what you make it, so let’s make it rock!” Even amid quarantine, one of this year’s catch phrases is, “living my best life.”

Jesus has a different anthem. Jesus says, whoever wants to cling to their life will lose it, but whoever is willing to lose their life for Jesus’ sake will discover it, because Jesus is the life.

Jesus invites everyone who is tired and weighed down by life to come find true life

in him. Jesus doesn’t invite us to a life of religious rituals, rules, and regulations, but a life of real, replenishing rest.

We must let go of the constantly quickening rush of the world to hold onto the life-changing rest Jesus offers. This doesn’t mean the world slows down for us to rest. Rather, we slow down because we trust God to take care of the rest while we rest.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his rest this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to peace.

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*Are you tired? Slow down. Slowing down is not an amount of time as much as an approach to time. No matter how rushed life may seem, especially in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, there’s always an opportunity to slow down with Jesus. Ask Jesus to teach you how to rest with him this Christmas. The only one who ever carried the weight of the world on his shoulders is offering to show you how to rest. Take him up on his offer. You won’t regret it.*

✦ **For further reading: Luke 12:29–32, Zephaniah 3:17**

DAY 13

FRIDAY

DEC.  
11



COME HOME  
TO REFRESHMENT

PSALM 73:28 MSG

**But I’m in the very presence of GOD—oh, how refreshing it is! I’ve made Lord GOD my home. GOD, I’m telling the world what you do!**

“Refreshing” is defined as something “pleasingly fresh or different.” We often seek refreshment, and once we find it, we acknowledge it with joy and gratitude. If someone offers us an ice-cold glass of lemonade on a hot summer’s day, we take a sip and exclaim, “Ahh, how refreshing!” And to think, this is what the psalmist exclaims when he is in God’s presence.

When was the last time you thought about God that way? Have you ever experienced that kind of refreshment in God’s presence?

When is the last time you remember being in God’s presence? Sure, God is omnipresent—meaning, God is everywhere always. But there’s a difference between God being present and being in God’s presence.

Notice God’s presence isn’t defined as happy or routine, but as pleasingly fresh or different. Although God’s character is constant and God’s Word endures forever, being with God is never more of the same old thing. God is always actively doing a new thing. Each day, God wants to do a pleasingly fresh or different work in you.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his refreshment this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to peace.

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*Maybe this Christmas you don’t need a cool glass of lemonade on the porch, but a warm cup of cocoa by the fire. Refreshment looks different in different seasons. Regardless of the season, all the refreshment you need can always be found in God’s presence. Pause and steal away with your Maker. Let God refresh you above and beyond the best cup of cocoa by the coziest fire.*

✦ **For further reading: Jeremiah 31:25, Acts 3:19–21**

DAY 14

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 12

# Come Home to Freedom

ROMANS 6:13–14 MSG

**Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you’ve been raised from the dead!—into God’s way of doing things. Sin can’t tell you how to live. After all, you’re not living under that old tyranny any longer. You’re living in the freedom of God.**

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If you are in Christ Jesus, sin can’t tell you how to live. Period. Evil no longer has power over you. So, why do we keep giving into the allure of darkness? Because we forget we are children of light set free from the power of death and darkness.

All of us were once dead in our own darkness. But Jesus, the Life and Light of the world, came to bring us to life in his light. We were so wrapped in darkness, we couldn’t see our own shackles. But Jesus came to free us anyway.

Jesus shined a light on our circumstances, rescued us, and enabled us to live light and free. We used to be stuck on a jam-packed, one-way street to destruction, but Jesus made a way for us to run wild and free into abundant life with him.

To keep in step with the Spirit is not a regimented marching order, but an invitation to dance. The Bible says it this way, “live freely, animated and motivated by God’s Spirit,” (Galatians 5:16).

Jesus is calling us to come home to his freedom this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to peace.

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*Have you received the freedom Jesus offers us from darkness and death? Or do you feel stuck on a hamster wheel of despair? Jesus wants to light up your darkness and bring you to life in his name, but he’s waiting for you to look to him—or at least, to look for him, though he’s not far from any one of us.*

*If you’ve never experienced the freedom of belonging to Jesus, but you want to, go ahead and tell him. Jesus has already done everything necessary to set you free. You need only to let him carry you to the other side of forgiveness. Are you ready to walk with Jesus in freedom? He came to walk with you.*

◆ For further reading: [John 8:32](#), [Galatians 5:1, 13](#)

# Together Time

## PEACE

Read this week's memory verse together:

JOHN 14:27 MSG

**I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace.**

Respond to these questions together:

- 1: At what times do you feel most peaceful?
- 2: Why do you think Jesus is called the "Prince of Peace?"
- 3: What can we do together to give a gift of peace to others this Christmas?

Practice singing Christmas carols together:

Have everyone pick their favorite Christmas song, and take time to sing each song together. Plan a safe, socially-distanced night of caroling together in your neighborhood this month.

◆ Discover more Christmas resources and activities at [pcbc.org/Christmas](http://pcbc.org/Christmas)

## Worship at Christmas | Peace

Close your eyes and listen to the classic Christmas song, "Silent Night." Then, read each verse of the song aloud as a time of devotion to God. Reflect on the lyric,

*Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth*

"Silent Night" may be the most peaceful song ever created. If we only imagine singing "Silent Night" in the soft glow of the candlelight, we are likely flooded with feelings of warmth, comfort, wonder, and peace. But what is "heavenly peace?" Is heavenly

peace something reserved for heaven, or is it something we can experience here on earth?

Heavenly peace is absolute, ultimate peace. On the night of his birth, Jesus brought his heavenly peace to dwell in us. Whenever we welcome Jesus into our lives by placing our trust in him, we can live in his heavenly peace.



Enjoy the PCBC  
Christmas Playlist  
on Spotify here!

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is dark, save the light Yon - der,  
2. Si - lent night! Peaceful night! Dark-ness flies, all is light; Shep-herds  
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Guid - ing Star, lend thy light! See the  
4. Si - lent night! Ho-liest night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light! With the

where they sweet vig - ils keep, O'er the Babe who in si - lent sleep  
hear the an - gels sing, "Al - le - lu - ia! hail the King!  
East - ern wise men bring Gifts and hom - age to our King!  
an - - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King!

*rallentando.*

Rests in heav - en - ly peace, Rests in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ the Sav - ior born, Je - sus the Sav - ior is born."  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Je - sus the Sav - ior is born!  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Je - sus the Sav - ior is born! A - MEN.

DAY 15

SUNDAY

DEC.  
13



Come Home  
to Joy

ECCLESIASTES 5:20 MSG

## God deals out joy in the present, the now.

---

Looking back on this year, and ahead to the unknown, we all may feel we've been dealt a bad hand in life. Ecclesiastes tells us something different. No matter how bad our hand may seem, God continues to deal out joy to each one of us in the here and now. No matter what other cards we pick up or lay down in life, we can always hold onto our joy in Jesus.

There is an ongoing, enduring sense to joy that's distinct from happiness, and all the other "feels" and "good vibes" of this world. Every Christmas we sing, "Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room."

God deals out joy in the present, the now, because God gave us (and continues to give us) God's own Son, Jesus. Jesus is everlasting, ever-present joy. Because Jesus, the true joy of the world, came to be with us, we can always have joy.

Jesus is calling us to come home to him this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

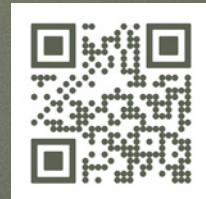
Come home to joy.

---

*Joy has come to us. Have you received your King, Jesus? Have you prepared a room in your heart for the joy of Jesus? If not, what has been occupying the spaces of your heart and overstayed its welcome? Take time to ask Jesus to help you prepare a space for his joy to move in for good. Soon, you will find the everlasting, ever-present joy of Jesus has a way of decorating the whole house.*

Worship with us at  
9 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 1 p.m.  
[pcbc.org/live](http://pcbc.org/live)

Find today's Sermon  
Response Guide here!



DAY 16

MONDAY

DEC  
14

Come Home  
to Embrace

LUKE 15:20 MSG

**When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him.**

---

If you have time, go read Luke 15. Read about this love that takes the first step, rushing to welcome us home and throw us a party we don't deserve. Just as there are Christmas classics we revisit each year, this Jesus classic is worth adding to your collection.

Don't miss how Luke starts the chapter. People with a bad reputation were coming to Jesus. People with a good reputation were throwing a fit Jesus joyfully shared his table and his time with scoundrels. So, Jesus tells a few stories that all end in joy, saving The Lost Son for last.

The lost son was a scoundrel whose bad choices landed him in a pigsty—literally. The son decided to go home and apologize to his dad so he could live a better life. But before the son could even get to the front door, while he was still a long way off, his dad rushed to embrace him.

The fact that the lost son wanted to come home was enough. His dad was ready and waiting to embrace his son—even if he acted and smelled like a pig.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his embrace this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to joy.

---

*What is keeping you from coming to Jesus? What stink are you so stuck on, you can't see Jesus is already here, ready and waiting to carry you home to joyful living with him? Instead of getting wrapped up in your own mess-ups, get wrapped up in God's never-ending love for you. Start now. Ask God to help you see that just as the dad in Jesus' story so loved his lost son that he rejoiced in his son, God so loves you that God rejoices in you always.*

◆ For further reading: Romans 8:31–39, Ephesians 2:1–10



TUESDAY  
**DEC.**  
**15**



**COME HOME  
TO BELONGING**

EPHESIANS 2:19–22 MSG

**You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building... We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.**

Whether you're opening a present with your name on it, sitting in a place set for you at the dinner table, or seeing your stocking hanging alongside another on the mantel, one of the gifts of Christmas is belonging.

This year has brought new challenges in terms of gathering and traveling, making it especially difficult to come home for Christmas. At the conclusion of the most isolating year of our lives, the one holiday we expect to give us a profound sense of belonging has the potential to be the most isolating day of the year.

However, the moment you decide to follow Jesus, God gives you a gift with your name on it. God rescues you, adopts you, and gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit, sealing you as God's own child. If you belong to Jesus, you belong with Jesus. Jesus has prepared a seat for you at his table.

God also gives you the gift of the church. God's church is a diverse body of people around the world and across history who believe Jesus is God and have committed to follow him all the days of their lives. God's church is meant to be the truest family we ever belong to.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his belonging this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to joy.

*Where have you been searching for belonging this year? How is God inviting you to find belonging in Jesus and his church instead? If you have already found belonging in Jesus and his church, how is God challenging you to help others experience belonging this Christmas? Ask God to show you one person you can invite into the belonging of God's family this Christmas.*

◆ **For further reading: 2 Peter 1:3–4, 1 John 4:13–16**

WEDNESDAY  
**DEC.**  
**16**



**COME HOME  
TO CELEBRATION**

PSALM 5:11–12 MSG

**But you'll welcome us with open arms when we run for cover to you. Let the party last all night! Stand guard over our celebration. You are famous, GOD, for welcoming God-seekers, for decking us out in delight.**

We love a good excuse for a party. God designed us this way. This year, our need for celebration is seen in how quickly drive-by birthday parties and graduation car parades have become a common way to celebrate. Luke 15:10 tells us heaven throws a party every time a wandering soul repents.

Just as the dad rejoiced when his lost son came home in Luke 15, God rejoices every time we come home to Jesus. We are sure to wander and wonder in life, but no matter what, God always welcomes us home.

To repent is to turn away from wherever you were walking on your own and turn toward walking with Jesus as his own. Choosing to walk with Jesus means choosing not to walk in the popular way of the world.

Sometimes we lose our way. Though we try to walk by faith and not by sight, sometimes we stumble. But no matter how far we stray, Jesus keeps calling us home to him. And every time we come home to Jesus, there's a welcome home party!

Jesus is calling us to come home to his celebration this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to joy.

*How does your perception of walking with Jesus change when you think of heaven throwing a party whenever you turn to walk with Jesus? What kind of joy and encouragement does that ignite within you? Take time to rejoice in the Lord who rejoices over you as you turn to Jesus today.*

◆ **For further reading: Nehemiah 12:43, Acts 2:44–47**

DAY 19

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 17

# Come Home to Delight

PSALM 89:15–17 MSG

**Blessed are the people who know the passwords of praise, who shout on parade in the bright presence of GOD. Delighted, they dance all day long; they know who you are, what you do—they can't keep it quiet! Your vibrant beauty has gotten inside us—you've been so good to us!**

---

When we delight in Jesus, we are delighted, because Jesus delights in us. When you come to know who Jesus is, you begin to recognize what Jesus did in the past, what Jesus does in the present, and what Jesus promises to do in the future, and you can't help but respond in delight.

Jesus is good. Jesus has always been good to us, and Jesus promises to always be good to us. In Psalm 23:6, we learn only God's goodness and steadfast love will follow us all the days of our lives.

When we look ahead, we can't see what's behind us. Whether we are walking, biking, or driving, the only way we know if someone is following us is if we take a moment to look back.

If we take time to look back, we'll see Jesus has been there all along. Every step of the way, Jesus has been delighting in us and inviting us to delight in him, too.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his delight this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to joy.

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*Wherever you are today, you may not feel like Jesus is good or that he has goodness before you. Take time to look back at the bigger picture of your life. Consider your journey. Consider the goodness and steadfast love of Jesus along your journey. Remember the nearness of God is our good.*

✦ **For further reading: Psalm 149:1–4, Luke 19:5–6**

DAY 20

FRIDAY  
**DEC.**  
**18**



## COME HOME TO STORIES

MARK 4:34 MSG

**He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.**

The Bible is packed with stories. It makes sense for such a big book to be filled with stories. But since the Bible tells us who God is and how we can know God, wouldn't you expect it to read more like a dictionary or a cookbook?

For generations before Jesus was born, the people of God passed down stories that eventually landed in the Bible. Through the years, these stories of God were repeatedly told to one another (not unlike Grandpa's jokes he repeats every Christmas). The hope was for children to come to know the God

behind the stories, and for their children to one day come to know God through the stories, too.

In the Bible, we read about the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Jacob was Isaac's son and Abraham's grandson. Jacob came to know God through stories of God's faithfulness to his dad and grandpa.

Whenever Jesus spoke about God's Kingdom, he tended to use stories. Jesus' stories intrigued listeners to learn the truth about the story and the storyteller.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his stories this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to joy.

*This year, we may not get to laugh at the same jokes or hear the stories we usually do whenever we gather for Christmas. What if we listen and learn from Jesus' stories instead? We've already spent Sunday mornings in Luke 2, and this week we've spent extra time in Luke 15. Why not start at the beginning of Luke and read through the end (Luke 1:1–24:53) at your own pace? As you go, keep track of how many stories/analogies Jesus offers throughout the book of Luke. When you finish, pick which story God used to speak most clearly to you, and share that story with someone else.*

◆ **For further reading: Matthew 13:34–35, Mark 4:10–13**

DAY 21

SATURDAY  
**DEC.**  
**19**



## COME HOME TO EMPOWERMENT

1 CORINTHIANS 4:20 MSG

**God's Way is not a matter of mere talk; it's an empowered life.**

Imagine if this Christmas, instead of opening a gift from someone you love, you open a card describing a gift that never comes. Where's the joy in that?

When Jesus promised to send his friends and followers the Holy Spirit, he wasn't blowing smoke. Jesus had every intention to make good on his promise, and if there's anything we can take to the bank about Jesus, it's that he keeps his promises.

In Acts 1, Luke tells us Jesus' last words (40 days after rising from the grave, and just before returning to heaven) to his closest friends and followers were words of promise. Jesus promised whenever they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, they would receive

power, too. The power Jesus promised is not the world's contaminated power plaguing power-hungry people. Jesus promised the same power he demonstrated his whole life—the life-giving power of God's Spirit.

God's Spirit empowers us to walk with Jesus and walk like Jesus. As we live an empowered life of joy in Jesus, the world sees Jesus in us.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his empowerment this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to joy.

*Have you received the gift of the Holy Spirit? Have you experienced the Spirit's power to live with joy in all circumstances? When people see you, do they see Jesus in you? You cannot receive the power of Jesus without first believing and receiving the person of Jesus.*

*Unlike Jesus' friends and followers back in the day, you no longer have to wait to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The moment you give your life to Jesus, he gives his Spirit to you. God didn't leave us with a big book of words talking about a gift God would never give us. God gave us God's word (the Bible) to point us to God's Word (Jesus). God didn't give us God's word merely to be educated. God gave us God's Word to be empowered. May today be the day you receive the Word of God and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

◆ **For further reading: Luke 24:45–53, Philippians 3:10–11**



# Together Time



JOY



Read this week's memory verse together:

ECCLESIASTES 5:20 MSG

God deals out joy in the present, the now.

Respond to these questions together:

1. What is the difference between happiness and joy?
2. How does God fill us with joy?
3. What is something we can do together to share the joy of Jesus with others this week?

Bake Christmas cookies together:

Work together to bake and/or decorate Christmas cookies. Pick a plate to fill with Christmas cookies and carefully cover them with plastic wrap to deliver to your neighbors. As you prepare the Christmas cookie plates, talk about how God fills us with joy and wraps us in the Holy Spirit to share God's joy with others. For a finishing touch, have everyone sign a Christmas card wishing your neighbors the everlasting joy of Jesus this Christmas.

Discover more Christmas resources and activities at [pcbc.org/Christmas](http://pcbc.org/Christmas)

## Worship at Christmas | Joy

Close your eyes and listen to the classic Christmas song, "Joy to the World." Then, read each verse of the song aloud as a time of devotion to God. Reflect on the lyric,

the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus' birthday must have been a day of joy on repeat! Still today, the joy of Jesus' coming continues swell within us as the good news of Jesus our Savior echoes to the ends of the earth. A Savior has been born for you, and he is Christ the Lord!

*While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!*

Imagine all of creation bursting like a firework with abundant, infectious, explosive joy at



Enjoy the PCBC Christmas Playlist on Spotify here!

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let ev-'ry heart prepare Him room, songs em-ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains fest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow na-tions prove The glories of His right-eous-ness,

2. Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains fest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow na-tions prove The glories of His right-eous-ness,

And Heav'n and na-ture sing, And Heav'n and na-ture sing, Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, And won-ders of His love, And won-ders of His love, And Heav'n and na-ture sing, . . . . . And

Heav'n and na-ture sing, And Heav'n, and Heav'n and na-ture sing. joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy. found, Far as, far as the curse is found. love, And won-ders, and won-ders of His love. A - MEN. Heav'n and na-ture sing,

DAY 22

SUNDAY

DEC.  
20



Come Home  
to Love

1 JOHN 4:16-17 MSG

**God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us,**

---

Love is the greatest gift we can ever give or receive, but it can't be bought or wrapped. Love can only be known and shown. Jesus showed us what true love is: it's sacrifice.

Out of love for God, Mary sacrificed her reputation when she willingly carried Jesus in her womb, even though she was a virgin. Out of love for God, Joseph sacrificed his reputation when he stood by his decision to take Mary as his wife, even though Mary was pregnant with a baby that wasn't his. Out of love for God and love for us, Jesus sacrificed his reputation when he carried all of humanity's sin to his public execution on a cross, even though he was without sin.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus cared more about what God thought of them than what others might think of them.

What's God asking you to sacrifice this Christmas? Like Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, what's God asking you to do that may put your reputation at risk?

Jesus is calling us to come home to him this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

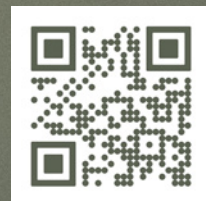
Come home to love.

---

*Jesus said whoever wants to come with him has got to sacrifice their own way of doing things, embrace suffering, and keep letting him lead one day at a time. This is what life with Jesus and a life of love looks like. What are you clinging to that God is asking you to let go of, so you can cling to God instead?*

Worship with us at  
9 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 1 p.m.  
[pcbc.org/live](http://pcbc.org/live)

Find today's Sermon  
Response Guide here!



DAY 23

MONDAY

DEC  
21



Come Home  
to an Open Door

PSALM 71:3 MSG

**Be a guest room where I can retreat; you said your door was always open!**

---

These days, and especially this year, it's a rare gift to know someone who will say to you, "Come anytime—my door is always open."

But isn't that what we long for? A home away from home where we are always welcome? A place where we feel free to raid the pantry and we know which cabinet the cereal bowls are in?

What a gift to know someone's prepared a guest room for you to retreat to anytime you want! Fresh linens and travel-size toiletries are set out for you on the vanity, a note including the wi-fi password and an invitation to relax is on the bedside table, and a plate of homemade Christmas cookies is on top of the dresser for you to snack on.

In Psalm 84:1–2, the psalmist writes about being at home in God's presence, "What a beautiful home, God-of-the-Angel-Armies! I've always longed to live in a place like this, Always dreamed of a room in your house, where I could sing for joy to God-alive!"

Jesus is calling us to come home to his open door this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to love.

---

*Jesus has prepared a place for you to be at home with him, not only in the life to come, but also in the here and now. God's door is always open to you. The more you walk through the door to retreat with God, the more you'll notice God's loving attention to detail. How have you seen God's love in the details this year?*

◆ For further reading: [Luke 11:9](#), [Luke 12:35–36](#)

TUESDAY  
**DEC.**  
**22**



**COME HOME  
TO BE HEARD**

PSALM 66:19–20 MSG

**But he most surely did listen, he came on the double when he heard my prayer. Blessed be God: he didn't turn a deaf ear, he stayed with me, loyal in his love.**

\_\_\_\_\_

If we don't feel heard, we won't feel loved.

Love sees you and love hears you. Love cares about what you care about because love cares about you. Love doesn't rush out the door to something more important. Love doesn't leave you hanging. Love listens and love lingers.

The God of all creation, who holds the universe together, sees you and hears you. God cares about what you care about

because God cares about you. God doesn't rush out the door to something more important. God doesn't leave you hanging. God listens and lingers.

God is loyal in love to a thousand generations. God delights in every detail of your life. God hears your prayers and answers. If you feel you don't have a voice in our world today, know you have a voice before God each day. Make your requests known to God, lay your burdens at the feet of Jesus, and pour out your praise. God is listening to your every word and loves the sound of your voice rising to heaven.

Jesus is calling us to come home to be heard by him this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to love.

\_\_\_\_\_

*Where do you not feel heard in life? Acknowledge your pain and give it to Jesus. Linger in this moment alone with your Maker. You have the full attention and full affection of God. Let the Holy Spirit reveal God's love for you. Consider how God is quick to listen to your every word. Then, consider how you might develop a habit of lingering and listening to God in response to God's love for you.*

◆ **For further reading: Jonah 2:1–10, 2 Samuel 22:7**

WEDNESDAY  
**DEC.**  
**23**



**COME HOME  
TO BE KNOWN**

JOHN 10:14–15 MSG

**I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Whenever you move somewhere new, it can be exhausting getting to know people. You may feel like a broken record as you share the same basic information about yourself again and again. But even if you handed people a fact sheet about yourself, or you invited them to browse your social media profile, they still wouldn't know you—not really.

It takes time to get to know someone. If you only see someone in one environment, how well do you know them? It takes time to recognize someone's voice, to detect their mannerisms, and to learn their preferences.

But, in time, as you live life with someone, you can come to know them well.

One of the best things about coming home is being known. The miracle of true love is we can be fully loved while we are fully known.

Jesus knows the deepest parts of us. Things people in our own home don't know about us, and things we may not even know about ourselves, Jesus knows. Still, Jesus chooses to love us.

Jesus is calling us to come home to be known by him this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to love.

\_\_\_\_\_

*Jesus said he is the Good Shepherd and we are his sheep. Jesus said his sheep know his voice and follow him. Do you know the voice of Jesus? Is his voice clear enough for you to follow? It takes time to get to know God's voice. If you only see God in one environment, how well do you know God? It takes time to detect the ways of God and learn God's will. But, in time, as you live with Jesus, you will come to know God well. Jesus wants to be invited into every aspect of your life. Where have you neglected to invite Jesus into your life? Where do you need to hear the voice of our Good Shepherd so you can follow him?*

◆ **For further reading: 1 Chronicles 17:16–27, Psalm 139:13–16**

DAY 26

THURSDAY

DEC.  
24



Come Home  
to Generosity

ROMANS 3:24 MSG

**God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.**

---

God gave us a pure gift when God gave us God's only Son, Jesus, who gave his life for us and gave us his Holy Spirit. How could God be so generous? It's who God is.

Grab a pen and paper and list everything God has given you. Include concrete and abstract gifts. Don't quit after 10 gifts. Keep reflecting on all God's given you and add to your list.

Now, in return for all God has given you, what have you given God? No matter your answer, it will never be an even exchange. So, why do so many of us think we have to do a bunch of good stuff to be good enough to get to heaven?

Heaven came to us in Jesus. Our good God in heaven sent Jesus to be with us. Throughout his life, Jesus only did the good stuff. Jesus was good for us then and still is today. Jesus brings us to God in heaven. Nothing else can bring us home to be with God except the one who is God-With-Us.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his generosity this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to love.

---

*If there's a list worth making and checking twice, it's not a Christmas wish list for Santa, but a list of gifts beyond your wishes God has already given you in Jesus. Out of God's sheer generosity, God gave us the Kingdom, just as God always wanted. God gave us an everlasting home and forever family in Jesus, who promised us in John 15:7, "if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon."*

◆ For further reading: Psalm 111:1–5, Acts 20:24



DAY 27

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 25

# Come Home to Grace

PHILIPPIANS 4:23 MSG

Receive and experience the amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, deep, deep within yourselves.

Merry Christmas! It's one thing to receive a gift on Christmas morning, but quite another to experience the gift. As you open presents and begin using them today, consider the amazing grace of Jesus.

God gives us grace not only to save us, but to sustain us. Take a deep breath and think about the way God designed us to breathe. From our first to our final breath, we breathe in and we breathe out. Imagine every time you breathe in, receiving the grace of Jesus, and every time you breathe out, experiencing the grace of Jesus.

The air we breathe in and the air we breathe out into the world should always be saturated with the grace of Jesus.

Grace is a gift in every sense of the word. God gives us grace to receive and enjoy. Just as you may want to show others the gifts you receive on this Christmas morning, Jesus wants you to show others the gift of grace you continue to receive from him with each new morning.

Jesus is calling us to come home to his grace this Christmas. Do you hear him? Will you answer?

Come home to love.

---

*On this Christmas Day, as we celebrate Jesus coming home to us, the greatest way we can respond is to come home to Jesus. Whether today is the first day or the 20,000th day you come home to Jesus, there is a celebration in heaven bigger than any Christmas party on earth whenever we come home to Jesus. Before you sit down to eat dinner tonight, whether you are on your own this Christmas, or with loved ones, acknowledge the one who loved you first and showed you what love is: Jesus Christ.*

*"This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God," (1 John 4:9–10).*

*Come home for Christmas!*

✦ **For further reading: Ephesians 2:7–10, Psalm 145:8**

# Together Time

LOVE

Read this week's memory verse together:

ECCLESIASTES 5:20 MSG

**God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us.**

Respond to these questions together:

1: How did God show us what love is?

2: Who does God want us to love?

3: What can we do together to show the love of Jesus to others this week?



**Build a fort together:**

Work together to build a fort in your home using chairs, sheets, and blankets. Place a basket at one end of the fort to serve as the manger for baby Jesus. Have everyone crawl through the fort from one end to the other to reach the manger. Talk together about the difficult journey Mary and Joseph traveled to get to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Emphasize that Jesus was born in a manger so we could live in the fortress of God's love.

◆ Discover more Christmas resources and activities at [pcbc.org/Christmas](http://pcbc.org/Christmas)

## Worship at Christmas | Love

Close your eyes and listen to the classic Christmas song, "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Then, read each verse of the song aloud as a time of devotion to God. Reflect on the lyric,

*"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

be better understood as love to the max. When you worship Jesus this Christmas, let it be an act of love to the max—extravagant, abundant, sincere adoration. Consider the love Jesus showed you in his coming, his dying, and his rising, and give him every bit of love you've got in response. Come, let us adore him. Jesus is Lord!



Enjoy the PCBC Christmas Playlist on Spotify here!

Imagine the shepherds coming to worship Jesus at his birth. To "adore" means to worship, honor, and "regard with the utmost esteem, love and respect." Adoration may

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O  
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, O sing, all ye  
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Je - sus, to

come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold Him born the King of  
 bright hosts of heav'n a - bove; Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the  
 Thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -

CHORUS.

an - gels:  
 high - est: O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
 pear - ing:

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord. A - MEN.



ISAIAH 9:6 MSG

For a child has  
been born—for us!  
the gift of a  
son—for us!

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