



# The Meaning of Christmas

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Christmas is the time when...  
We make experimentally to get out of our usual grooves.  
The time sought between Thanksgiving and Christmas is our natural season of the stars. Stars in fact, but nothing like Christmas.

— a retail merchant  
My wife and I think mostly about the kids. We had lots of fun when we were growing up, and we want our kids to have fun, too. Now, we are in a little awkward on one and all the rest of things, but what the heck? Christmas is for kids, too! My father — a young father

— a young father  
We really are all out on music. Last year we heard a house quartet in the midlands in that they were called to come up with something even better or they'll think we are slapping.

— a church organist  
People think they are celebrating an historical event. But they really aren't, you know. No one knows the exact date of Jesus' birth. The primitive church didn't even celebrate Christmas. Eventually the church settled on December 25th as a way to honor an already popular, pagan holiday to celebrate the first day of winter over and over and the days were getting longer again.

— a historian  
None of us get Jesus. Next Christmas I'll be home, I hope. It's a time when everybody should be home, I hope.  
— a service-center operator

I got tired. The kids are on vacation, I have a thousand and one things to do — 200 cards to address, a half-dozen parties to go to, gifts for the children and their friends, a dinner party for Dad's boss and his money wife, get the tree and decorate it.  
— a suburban housewife

People at Christmas time are kind of funny, kind of sad, kind of lonesome. Some are really happy no matter what reasons. Are these people really living up to what Christmas is really all about? I wonder.  
I have a copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible on my desk, and so I opened it and began to look through it remembering what these people had said about Christmas. Here are some of the passages I found.

I found an expression of the wonder and humility of a mother expecting her first child, but a child unlike others. And Mary said:  
"My soul magnifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaid.  
For behold, henceforth all  
generations will call me blessed;  
For he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name."  
(Luke 1:46-55)

I found the simple, moving story of Christ's birth:  
"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, in order to be with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there the time came for her to be delivered, and she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."  
(Luke 2:4-7)

And further on I found the joyous message of the angels to the shepherds on the hillside outside Bethlehem:  
"... I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day... A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."  
(Luke 2:10-12)

But perhaps, most important of all, I found the story of Christ's life, a life which changed the history of the world and of the relationship between men. He said:

"Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."  
"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall be comforted."  
"Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied."  
"Blessed are you who are hated and reviled now, for your name will be set on record as of sons of God. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for indeed, your reward is great in heaven."  
(Luke 6:20-24)

And further on:  
"Love your enemies. Be good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also."  
(Luke 6:27-28)



We take every opportunity to wish every one of you a truly beautiful holiday. We enjoy serving you.

**Merry Christmas**  
Norma Jean's Beauty Shop

Best wishes of the season, friends, and grateful thanks.

**Merry Christmas**  
The Little House  
Carlisle Dry Cleaners

It's Christmas! To you, our greetings and gratitude for your favors.

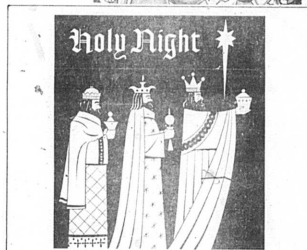
**Sexton's Grocery**



## Spirit of Christmas Spreads Its Joy

**By ANNA MANN**  
Merry Christmas, one and all.  
With this simple and sincere greeting, the warmth of the spirit of Christmas reaches its peak.  
In this community, as in cities and towns throughout the nation, joyous and happy Christmas celebrations are being held. The spirit of Christmas is spreading its joyous and happy greeting to all.  
Families gather, Santa enters, church bells ring, Christmas arrives!  
Every year, Christmas seems to generate more eager anticipation, love and joy. There is more and more enthusiastic planning—apparently for ages and ages—the joy of Christmas is in the planning.  
The spirit of Christmas starts with thoughtful gifts. It begins in the hearts of each of us. It grows with a hope, a wish, a prayer.  
It shows itself, outwardly, in such manifestations as merry songs and holiday carols, and in the festive decorations and glowing lights and evergreen trees and stores, homes and churches.  
It expresses itself, most deeply, with thoughtful gifts and in special services such as those scheduled by local churches.  
It is a spirit abounding in legend and lore, in custom and tradition, honored through the years, and most of all, in the spirit of love.

and wrapping of gifts, the packages fringed beneath the tree happily symbolize the spirit of Christmas.  
Even as the Wise Men gave of their most precious treasures to honor Him, so people give generously at Christmas, and their generosity stems from thoughtfulness—giving with open heart, as well as open hand.  
**For Sharing**  
Christmas is for sharing. You giving to the less fortunate is a traditional part of the Christmas spirit.  
Joy grows through sharing, says the holiday message, and sharing is most blessed when it extends not only to those near and dear but to those known only through their need.  
**For Greetings**  
Christmas continues as it begins, with "Merry Christmas, one and all." And as long as the spirit of this cheerful greeting prevails, Christmas never really ends.  
Yes, Christmas is for greetings to family, friends and neighbors. "Merry Christmas, one and all," we say, and the spirit of Christmas lives forever in the words.  
In just this spirit, today's edition of this newspaper, in with greetings from the business and professional community, who take the opportunity to say "Merry Christmas, one and all," with special thanks to their parents and friends.



We remember with awe the meaning of this season. May it be an inspiration to your family.

**Cynthiana Motor Co.**

It's Christmas! At this most joyous time of year we pause to give thought to our blessings... numbered among them, your favors and friendly good will. Please accept our sincere thanks along with our best wishes for holiday joy in full measure.

**CHRISTMAS**

**Baker's Dept. Store**