


THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

JOY PEACE HOPE LOVE



Christmas
is coming...



Christmas is about sharing and
forgiving, about loving and spreading
joy. The best way to enjoy Christmas
is to adopt the spirit of the occasion
and be Christmas yourself. Be the one
to spread joy and light everywhere!

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THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS – JOSEPH OGBONNA

**OH WHAT A PLEASANT DAY TO BEHOLD!
A GLORIOUS EVENING IN DECEMBER,
A DAY WE ARE SURE TO REMEMBER
THE NOSTALGIC HAPPY DAYS OF OLD.**



**OH WHAT BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS UNFOLD!
THE GLADDENED CAROL VOICES RAISED,
SANTA'S DELIGHTS, CANDLE LIGHTS OF GOLD,
AND RELIVED MOMENTS HARDLY ERASED.**



**OH WHAT MOMENTOUS DELIGHTS ABOUND!
THE MERRIMENT FROM HEARTS WELL LADEN WITH JOY,
CHILDREN GETTING AMUSED WITH EACH NEW TOY,
THUS RESTORING BLISS ONCE LOST BUT FOUND.**

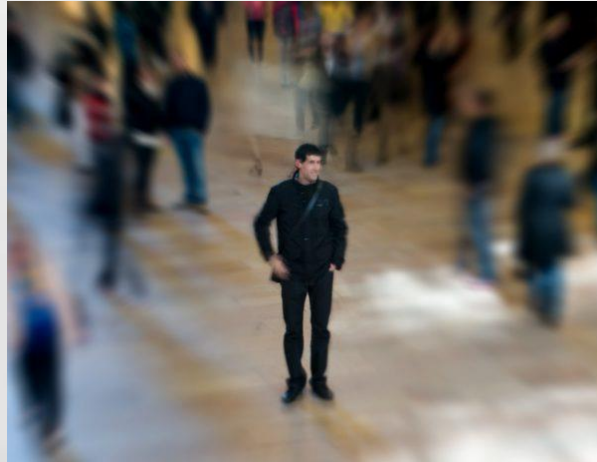
What are your favourite things about Christmas?



BUT IS IT ALL JOY?

THE OLD CHRISTMAS SONG SAYS, "IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR." YET FOR MANY, CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON TO SURVIVE. DEPRESSION, GRIEF AND LONELINESS ARE OFTEN EXACERBATED BY SHATTERED FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INCREASED DEBT LOADS

- 1. How true is this quotation?**
- 2. Why might there be more depression at this time of the year?**
- 3. Why might there be more grief at this time of the year?**
- 4. Why might people be more lonely at this time of the year?**
- 5. Why is it easy to get into debt around Christmas?**



CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS BORROWED £3.0 BILLION IN LOANS AND ON CREDIT CARDS IN DECEMBER 2017

- **WHY IS THERE SO MUCH PRESSURE TO SPEND MONEY AT CHRISTMAS**
- **WHAT PROBLEMS CAN THIS SORT OF DEBT CREATE FOR PEOPLE?**
- **WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM – ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS WITHOUT SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY?**



PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

- in the last few decades, two million people have been killed in war in Afghanistan. Our current war on the children of Afghanistan is the longest in our own nation's history, but you don't hear much about it and folks don't seem that concerned. War is normal, permanent, institutionalized, taken for granted. This year, the U.S. launched over 330 drone attacks in Afghanistan, and over 1700 Afghan children have been killed or harmed in the conflict — 85 times the number of the horrific sandy hook school massacre. We deliberately, systematically, intentionally wage war, kill children, and pursue "war on earth."
- The message of Christmas is "peace on earth," so we should try to welcome that great Christmas gift of peace. We should join to renounce violence, join the global peace movement and spend our lives making peace with everyone.
- Christmas invites us to reclaim our common imagination for peace, to herald a new future of peace, and so to resist the old paradigm of global war-making.

HOPE AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for hope and joy to triumph over adversity. "Across the world people are fleeing persecution in record numbers, in Syria and Iraq, in the South Sudan and across Europe where more than three quarters of a million people are seeking refuge as winter sets in."

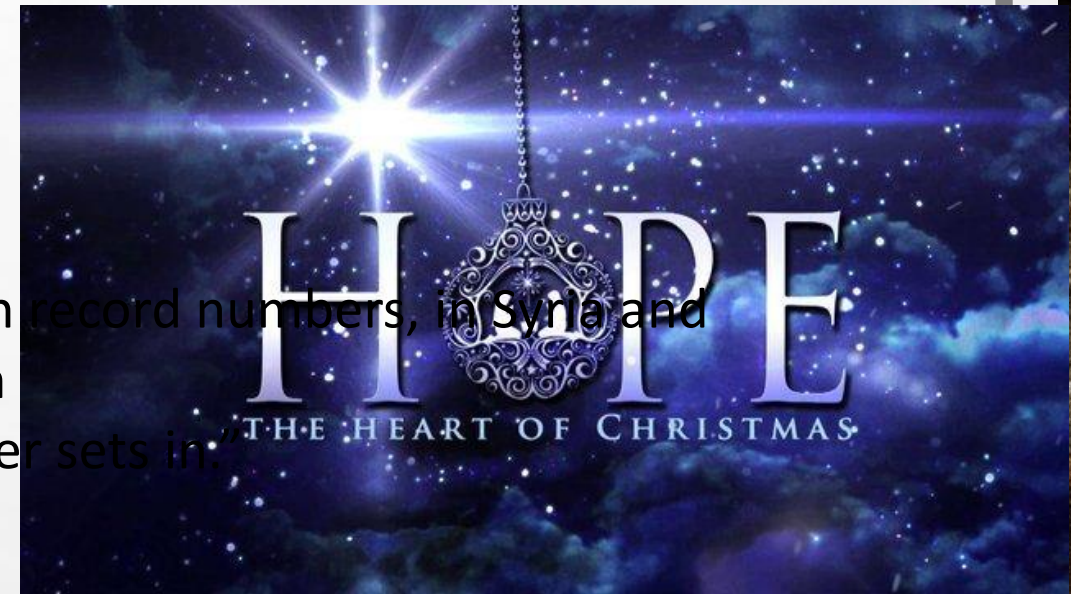
"This Christmas and into the new year people of all faiths, and none, can be signs of hope in the world.

"Let us be present for one another in such a way that there are no strangers, that all people will experience welcome and know that they are valued and loved."

Recent horrors in the UK, France, Syria and throughout the Middle East show that the world has changed.

"The dark, foreboding thrall of possible violence, the struggles of nations and the never-ending lines of refugees underline the suffering which is so present in our human condition."

HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS!



LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

FAMILIES MATTER

My grandmother died a week and a half away from her favorite holiday (Christmas) and we thought that things were at their worst. We were eating in complete silence and all of a sudden my grandfather said the simplest thing: that he was grateful for us being there. That week was the hardest week of my life and I still remember it vividly, but that Christmas when my Grandpa said those words I thought that things could go back to normal.

HELP THE HOMELESS

All throughout my childhood there was a homeless man who slept in our local Laundrette. Every Christmas my mum would cook a big spread and we would take him a heaping plate and I insisted on hugging him. It is one of my favorite memories, and probably one of the reasons I ended up in school studying for social work.

The Orange

When I was 6 years old or so I received an orange from my great-grandmother. I didn't understand why someone had given me fruit for Christmas, until I learned many years later that this was my great-grandma's favorite gift when she was a kid in the 1910s... It was her tradition and her way to remind us that small things could make us happy.



LETTERS FROM SANTA

My most heartwarming holiday memory is when my Year 3 teacher sent each student in our class a personalised letter from Santa. I remember after we all got the letters, we came into school the next day really freaking excited that SANTA WROTE TO US, and we couldn't stop telling our teacher about how Santa sent us letters. It always brings a smile to my face when I remember that time. 😊

JOY PEACE HOPE LOVE

As a class discuss these 4 words:

JOY – what are the most exciting things about Christmas?

PEACE – is this about world peace or personal peace?

HOPE – What are you hoping for this Christmas?

LOVE – How will you show love over the Christmas holidays?

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

How do they celebrate Christmas in Bolivia?

Christmas in Bolivia. In Bolivia, Christmas is celebrated from Christmas Eve until Epiphany (6th January). Most of the population of Bolivia is Catholic and many people go to a Midnight Mass service on Christmas Eve called the 'Misa de Gallo' (Mass of the rooster). At Midnight people like to let off fire-crackers!

CHRISTMAS IN JAPAN

Although Christmas is not a formal, nationally recognized holiday in Japan, the Japanese culture has adopted the season's traditions and spirit over time. Cities celebrate Christmas through festivals and special events, and citizens celebrate the season with sentiment, presents and, of course, food

How Christmas is celebrated in Malawi.

Christmas trees are common in Malawi. Most Malawians do not have the financial resources for an UK-style Christmas, full of gifts and family and feasting. A typical Christmas meal for a Malawian family is not far from their everyday fare, they might have rice instead and chicken. While most Malawians have a family meal at home, the lake is a popular holiday destination for those with resources. Generally speaking, Christmas in Malawi doesn't seem to be as big a deal as in the UK. A student from a college in Malawi told me he wasn't even going home because he had a lot of studying to do. Not bothering with the 4-hour bus trip home? Skipping Christmas to STUDY?



CHRISTMAS VIDEOS

[COPY AND PASTE THESE INTO A SEARCH]

[HTTPS://WWW.BING.COM/VIDEOS/SEARCH?Q=HOMELESS+AT+CHRISTMAS+VIDEO&VIEW=DETAIL&MID=B3D3BB94BCC0959AF623B3D3BB94BCC0959AF623&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=homeless+at+christmas+video&view=detail&mid=B3D3BB94BCC0959AF623B3D3BB94BCC0959AF623&form=vire)

[HTTPS://WWW.BING.COM/VIDEOS/SEARCH?Q=HOMELESS+CHRITSMAS+VIDEOS&VIEW=DETAIL&MID=63796944440EA1E5344F63796944440EA1E5344F&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=homeless+chritsmas+videos&view=detail&mid=63796944440EA1E5344F63796944440EA1E5344F&form=vire)

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=PWV4HDSQXJG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWV4HDSQXJG)

How much do you know about ...

Christmas



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

• THE FIRST 3 FORMS TO EMAIL ME THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO THIS CHRISTMAS QUIZ WILL WIN PRIZES

• EMAIL - tdobbs@chacademy.co.uk

1 When is the feast of St. Nicholas?

- a) December 6th
- b) December 25th
- c) December 18th



4 What do children hang up for Santa to put the presents in?

- a) Bags.
- b) Gloves.
- c) Stockings.



7 What kind of songs are sung?

- a) Lullabies.
- b) Hymns.
- c) Carols.



10 What kind of calendar is opened by children leading up to Christmas?

- a) A Christmas calendar.
- b) An Advent calendar.
- c) A desk calendar.



13 Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

- a) In a bed.
- b) In a manger.
- c) In a cradle.



16 Who helps Santa to make toys at the North Pole?

- a) Reindeer.
- b) Elves.
- c) Dwarfs.



2 Where does Santa live?

- a) In Holland.
- b) In Germany.
- c) In Finland.



5 Where are the presents kept before opening them?

- a) Under the tree.
- b) In a crib.
- c) Under the bed.



8 What plant with red berries is used for decorations?

- a) Holly.
- b) Poinsettia.
- c) Butcher's broom.



11 What bird is cooked for Christmas dinner?

- a) Turkey.
- b) Goose.
- c) Chicken.



14 Where was Jesus born?

- a) Jerusalem.
- b) Bethlehem.
- c) Jericho.



17 What is a common abbreviation for Christmas?

- a) Z'mas.
- b) C'mas.
- c) X'mas.



3 What animals are Santa's helpers?

- a) Reindeers.
- b) Teddy bears.
- c) Horses.



6 What is hung outside the door?

- a) A calendar.
- b) A wreath.
- c) A bell.



9 What do you kiss under?

- a) The Christmas tree.
- b) The table.
- c) Mistletoe.



12 Which of Santa's reindeers has a red nose?

- a) Dasher.
- b) Cupid.
- c) Rudolph.



15 What did the wise men follow?

- a) A star.
- b) A reindeer.
- c) A camel.



18 Which of these names doesn't belong to one of Santa's reindeers?

- a) Comet.
- b) Prancer.
- c) Klaxon.



**I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'**

**Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'**

**Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.**

A CHRISTMAS POEM FOR REFLECTION

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY BY HENRY LONGFELLOW

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and a
happy new year**