



The Twelve Days of Christmas

	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020	MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020
	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Second Day of Christmas	Third Day of Christmas	Fourth Day of Christmas	Fifth Day of Christmas	Sixth Day of Christmas
Scripture Reading	John 1:1-18	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:21-35	Luke 2:36-40	John 14:26-27	John 14:1-14	John 15:1-17
Spiritual Discipline	Feasting: Light	Feasting: Sacrament	Feasting: Celebration	Feasting: Thankful	Feasting: Generosity	Feasting: Rest	Feasting: Reconciliation
Playlist	Silent Night arranged by Shane & Shane	Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Glory in the Highest) by Rend Collective	Shining Light by Rend Collective	The Gospel Changes Everything by Meredith Andrews	What Child is This? arranged by Phil Wickham	O Come, All Ye Faithful arranged by Pentatonix	Light of the World by Lauren Daigle
	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020	FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021	SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021	SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021	MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021	TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021
	Seventh Day of Christmas	Eighth Day of Christmas	Ninth Day of Christmas	Tenth Day of Christmas	Eleventh Day of Christmas	Twelfth Day of Christmas	Epiphany
Scripture Reading	John 8:12	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Matthew 26:17-30	Acts 2:1-4, 42-47	Acts 3:1-10	Exodus 3:1-22	Matthew 2:1-12
Spiritual Discipline	Feasting: Light	Feasting: Sacrament	Feasting: Celebration	Feasting: Thankful	Feasting: Generosity	Feasting: Rest	Feasting: Reconciliation
Playlist	Love Came Down by Kari Jobe	Dwell Among Us - Echoes of Wonder Mix by Salt of the Sound	Humble by Audrey Assad	Great Are You Lord by All Sons & Daughters	Restless by Audrey Assad	Awake My Soul by Chris Tomlin and Lecrae	Eden is Open by Josh Lavender

Celebrating Twelve Days of Christmas:

There is a lot of confusion about the twelve days of Christmas. Retailers and companies emphasized the shopping days before December 25th, using the twelve days as a countdown for the season. The waiting season is the time of Advent, and the actual twelve days of Christmas begin on December 25th and ends January 5th. This has been traditionally when people use to visit and celebrate. It used to be common for a family to decorate their Christmas tree on Christmas Eve so that it would be up during the twelve days of festivities.

To remember the twelve days of Christmas, we have daily readings with a suggested way of “feasting” during the festive season.

December 24, 2020 – Christmas Eve

Theme // Light

Playlist // *Silent Night* arranged by Shane & Shane

Scripture Readings: John 1:1-18

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Light

Light a candle. Enjoy the light it proves.

Now reflect on the meanings of the word light.

Light dispels darkness. Light illuminates. Light gives life. On the Sundays of Advent, we have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. Light fosters these.

As you look at the lit candle, who shares this light with you, both actually and metaphorically?

Pray for these: those in your home, those in your church, those in your city and community, those in the church around the world, those in the persecuted church. How is the light of Christ active and at work in your life? In your church? In your community? In the church around the world? Research to see where the Church is growing and how the Holy Spirit is moving around the world. Journal about these positive experiences.

December 25, 2020 -Christmas Day

Theme // Light

Playlist // *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Glory in the Highest)* by Rend Collective

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Sacrament

Sacraments are sacred acts. Recognized sacraments of the Church range from two to three to seven. The two common sacraments among all Christians are Baptism and the Lord's Supper, sometimes called Eucharist or Holy Communion.

But many things can be sacred acts shared with others or sacramental acts that are holy moments of shared fellowship with the Holy Spirit and with others. The moment is made holy by the presence of the Holy Spirit and the presence of those with whom you share the moment.

Bake, cook, or otherwise create something edible today. Perhaps this is a yummy holiday or Christmas treat, a regular meal, or simply a loaf of bread. Or if baking and cooking are not in your skillsets, buy something from the store or a restaurant. Either way, share this crafted item with someone. Make a note of the effort and intentionality that is involved in your acquisition of this edible item. What did you have to do to make or buy this shared snack or meal?

Now eat, drink, and enjoy this item together as a sacrament, a sacred act. This is a holy moment, not an ordinary moment. Savour the time as well as the item you are sharing. With the pandemic, sharing with your family or immediate household is best; however, consider porch drops and Zoom calls as ways of safely interacting with those who are not in your home. Please share responsibly and follow public health regulations when sharing with others.

As you partake, ponder why this shared meal, snack, or treat is or could be a holy moment. What is also shared in this time, aside from food? What happens in your friendship and relationship with this person as you share some food together?

Observe in a granular way: what do you do when you share in this way that you might not do if the shared food was not present? What kind of care do you bring to this meeting with your friend, child, or spouse that is added because you made or bought something just for this occasion? Journal these thoughts and reflections. Discuss them with your sacrament sharer.

What does this sharing as a sacred act teach you about hospitality?

December 26 – Second Day of Christmas

Theme // **Light**

Playlist // *Shining Light* by Rend Collective

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:21-35

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Celebration

Celebration is one of the most life-giving activities in which we can participate. We celebrate the Eucharist, also known as Communion or the Lord's Supper. We celebrate milestones and birthdays. We celebrate accomplishments, degrees earned, and anniversaries. All of these are worthy activities.

Celebrations are shared, bringing together friends, family, or friends who are family. Celebrations create memories for us, drawing us together to worship, play, pray, and eat. Celebrations are a very good thing.

Celebration reminds us that this life is not all pain and suffering. Celebrations remind us that God is good, and victorious over sin, death, and hell. Christmas and Easter are the most Holy Celebrations after the long, patient suffering and waiting of Advent and Lent.

Celebrations are the very good of the Sixth Day of Creation (Genesis 1:31). Celebrations are the "Peace! Be still!" to the chaotic waves and winds around us (Mark 4:39). Celebrations are the angelic declaration, "Do not be afraid!" (Luke 2:10), and the Messianic declaration, "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1). Celebrations speak of redemption and Resurrection. Celebrations are good.

What do you celebrate today? With whom do you celebrate?

Our celebrations do not have to wait for big things like graduations and birthdays. We are invited to celebrate every good gift that comes from God (James 1:17). What gifts have been given to you today? How can you celebrate these gifts? Journal and reflect, and then do it! Celebrate today! Share this celebration with someone else.

December 27 – Third Day of Christmas

Theme // Light

Playlist // *The Gospel Changes Everything* by Meredith Andrews

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:36-40

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Thankfulness

This year has been full of challenges. For many, the struggles, setbacks, and disappointments have been the core of the year. It was negative, the year was negative, and they feel negative. Maybe you can relate to these thoughts.

The act of being thankful resets our thinking. Seeing the good, remembering blessings, and thanking God change us. It changes our view of God, our lives, and even the year.

What are you thankful for? Make a list

December 28 – Fourth Day of Christmas

Theme // Light

Playlist // *What Child is This?* arranged by Phil Wickham

Scripture Reading: John 14:26-27

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Generosity

Generosity does not always mean giving money. Generous people have currencies in many denominations: time, finances, listening, space around their table and in their home, and their skills and talents. Brainstorm some of the "currencies" you have below:

Ask yourself, with whom can you be generous today? With what can you be generous? How can your generosity demonstrate the love of Christ by freely giving without expecting anything in return? How can you be generous during the lockdown?

Pick one or more acts of generosity, and do it. Reflect after your act(s) of generosity. How did it go? What happened? What did you learn? What do you celebrate? What would you like to do differently next time?

December 29 – Fifth Day of Christmas

Theme // Light

Playlist // *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arranged by Pentatonix

Scripture Reading John 14:1-14

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Rest

Like how you rested and sabbathed during Advent, continue to practice sabbath and rest during the Christmas season.

Pause.

Take a break.

Cancel the busyness and restlessness for today, and spend time with God in silence, solitude, prayer, reading Scripture, walking in nature, and resting. Create and recreate today. Play and pray. Enjoy a sport, play some music, partake in art. Let this be a day of restoration for yourself and those in your home.

Work shall come again tomorrow, as will toil and strife. Cease the striving for today, and simply enjoy the presence of God. Spend time journaling about what you will do and have done today to participate in Sabbath.

What were the highlights of today? Draw or sketch something amazing from today:

December 30, 2020 – Sixth Day of Christmas

Theme // **Light**

Playlist // *Light of the World* by Lauren Daigle

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-17

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Reconciliation

Finally, as the last feast of Christmas, let us participate in reconciliation.

With whom do you need to reconcile? Perhaps it is personal reconciliation with a friend, family member, or coworker. Maybe it is systemic reconciliation within your community, people group, or country. Perhaps it is with others who are quite different from you in appearance, language, understanding, worldview, or other identities.

Reconciliation does not always mean agreement, but it does mean hospitality and kindness. Reconciliation welcomes others who are different from oneself and seeks resolution. Assimilation or assumption of differences upon self does not necessarily mean reconciliation has happened. This sort of appropriation is sometimes, even often, as harmful as not seeking reconciliation in the first place. Reconciliation meets face-to-face with the present differences, embraces, welcomes, and celebrates the differences that are good while seeking to bring about goodness in the harmful differences.

Perhaps the change needs to happen in you. Maybe the change needs to occur in the other person. But reconciliation is always a pursuit, always a journey towards the other, with the purpose of unity in diversity.

Let's first own what is ours and take responsibility for it. What needs to change in you so that reconciliation can come about? What are your rough edges and your sinful actions and attitudes? Next, what needs to change in you as you pursue to welcome those around you? What are your natural biases that become roadblocks between you and others?

Prayerfully surrender these to Jesus. Now, take more steps towards reconciliation by embracing those who are different toward you. Keep in mind this is a process and will not be accomplished today. Keep leaning into this act. Keep pursuing others who are different from you. And all the while, ask God to change you, shape you, and mold you to have a heart more and more like the heart of Jesus.

December 31, 2020 – Seventh Day of Christmas

Theme // Light

Playlist // *Love Came Down* by Kari Jobe

Scripture Readings: John 8:12

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

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What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Light

Light a candle. Enjoy the light it provides.

Now reflect on the meanings of the word light.

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As you look at the lit candle, who shares this light with you, both actually and metaphorically?

Pray for these: those in your home, those in your church, those in your city and community, those in the church around the world, those in the persecuted church. How is the light of Christ active and at work in your life? In your church? In your community? In the church around the world? Research to see where the Church is growing and how the Holy Spirit is moving around the world. Journal about these positive experiences.

January 1, 2021 -Eighth Day of Christmas

Theme // Light

Playlist // *Dwell Among Us - Echoes of Wonder Mix* by Salt of the Sound

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

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What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

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Observe in a granular way: what do you do when you share in this way that you might not do if the shared food was not present? What kind of care do you bring to this meeting with your friend, child or spouse added because you made or bought something just for this occasion? Journal these thoughts and reflections. Discuss them with your sacrament sharer.

What does this sharing as a sacred act teach you about hospitality?

January 2, 2021 – Ninth Day of Christmas

Theme // **Light**

Playlist // *Humble* by Audrey Assad

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:17-30

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

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What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Celebration

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Celebration reminds us that this life is not all pain and suffering. Celebrations remind us that God is good, and victorious over sin, death, and hell. Christmas and Easter are the most Holy Celebrations after the long, patient suffering and waiting of Advent and Lent.

Celebrations are the "very good" of the Sixth Day of Creation (Genesis 1:31). Celebrations are the "Peace! Be still!" to the chaotic waves and winds around us (Mark 4:39). Celebrations are the angelic declaration, "Do not be afraid!" (Luke 2:10), and the Messianic declaration, "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1). Celebrations speak of redemption and Resurrection. Celebrations are good.

What do you celebrate today? With whom do you celebrate?

Our celebrations do not have to wait for big things like graduations and birthdays. We are invited to celebrate every good gift that comes from God (James 1:17). What gifts have been given to you today? How can you celebrate these gifts? Journal and reflect, and then do it! Celebrate today! Share this celebration with someone else.

January 3, 2021 – Tenth Day of Christmas

Theme // **Light**

Playlist // *Great Are You Lord* by All Sons & Daughters

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-4, 42-47

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Thankfulness

This year has been full of challenges. For many the struggles, setbacks, and disappointments have been the core of the year. It was negative, the year was negative, and they feel negative. Maybe you can relate to these thoughts.

The act of being thankful resets our thinking. Seeing the good, the remembering blessings, and thanking God changes us. It changes our view on God, our lives, and even the year.

What are you thankful for? Make a list

January 4, 2021 – Eleventh Day of Christmas

Theme // **Light**

Playlist // *Restless* by Audrey Assad

Scripture Reading: Acts 3:1-10

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Generosity

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Ask yourself, with whom can you be generous today? With what can you be generous? How can your generosity demonstrate the love of Christ by freely giving without expecting anything in return? How can you be generous during the lockdown?

Pick one or more acts of generosity, and do it. Reflect after your act(s) of generosity. How did it go? What happened? What did you learn? What do you celebrate? What would you like to do differently next time?

January 5, 2021 – Twelfth Day of Christmas

Theme // Light

Playlist // *Awake My Soul* by Chris Tomlin and Lecrae

Scripture Reading Exodus 3:1-22

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Light**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Rest

Like how you rested and sabbathed during Advent, continue to practice sabbath and rest during the Christmas season.

Pause.

Take a break.

Cancel the busyness and restlessness for today, and spend time with God in silence, solitude, prayer, reading Scripture, walking in nature, and in resting. Create and recreate today. Play and pray. Enjoy a sport, play some music, partake in art. Let this be a day of restoration for yourself and those in your home.

Work shall come again tomorrow, as will toil and strife. Cease the striving for today, and simply enjoy the presence of God. Spend time journaling about what you will do and have done today to participate in Sabbath.

What were the highlights of today? Draw or sketch something amazing from today:

January 6 – Epiphany

Theme // The Visit of the Magi: Christ is for the Nations

Playlist // *Eden is Open* by Josh Lavender

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Draw, Sketch, or Outline Notes from Scripture Reading:

Look over your notes. Underline anything that points to this week's theme, **Christ is for the Nations**. Add a star * next to anything that tells more of the story of Jesus at Christmas, including theology and Old Testament discussions and prophecies.

What questions do you have about this?

What curious observations stand out to you as you ponder these verses?

Feasting as Reconciliation

Finally, as the last feast of Christmas, let us participate in reconciliation.

With whom do you need to reconcile? Perhaps it is personal reconciliation with a friend, family member, or coworker. Perhaps it is systemic reconciliation within your community, people group, or country. Perhaps it is with others who are quite different from you in appearance, language, understanding, worldview, or other identities.

Reconciliation does not always mean agreement, but it does mean hospitality and kindness. Reconciliation welcomes others who are different from oneself and seeks resolution. Assimilation or assumption of differences upon self does not necessarily mean reconciliation has happened. This sort of appropriation is sometimes, even often, as harmful as not seeking reconciliation in the first place. Reconciliation meets face-to-face with the present differences, embraces, welcomes, and celebrates the differences that are good while seeking to bring about goodness in the harmful differences.

Perhaps the change needs to happen in you. Maybe the change needs to happen in the other person. But reconciliation is always a pursuit, always a journey towards the other, with the purpose of unity in diversity.

Let's first own what is ours and take responsibility for it. What needs to change in you so that reconciliation can come about? What are your rough edges and your sinful actions and attitudes? Next, what needs to change in you as you pursue to welcome those around you? What are your natural biases that become roadblocks between you and others?

Prayerfully surrender these to Jesus. Now, take more steps towards reconciliation by embracing those who are different toward you. Keep in mind this is a process and will not be accomplished today. Keep leaning into this act. Keep pursuing others who are different from you. And all the while, ask God to change you, shape you, and mold you to have a heart more and more like the heart of Jesus.