

A Prayer to Put Jesus First This Christmas Season

By Debbie McDaniel

(adapted from crosswalk.com)

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

No room for them. No vacancy. No place. Words that still seem to hang close, even today.

In a world that seeks to crowd Jesus out, where busyness abounds, and hearts are stirred to focus on other things, it can be hard sometimes to choose to keep Him first. It's all too easy to get caught up in the whole hurried dash of the Christmas season, and to give our attention to what seems more urgent. Our focus gets blurred; and the most important gets pushed aside.

It takes an active and daily choice to put Christ first, especially in a culture that says you're too busy to focus there. Or that life is too full. And there's no more room.

May God help us to choose wisely, what voices we listen to, and where we give our attention today.

He is the One who brings true meaning to Christmas.

He is the One who brings real peace in this all-too-often hectic season.

He is the only One worthy of our time and attention as we slow down the maddening rush around our lives.

We can know all of this in our heads, but may He help us to really believe it in our hearts...and choose to live it out this season.

Renewed.

Refreshed.

Making room for Him, first.

Dear God,

Help us to keep our focus first on Christ this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention on other things. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favour as with a shield, and we are safe in your care. We choose to press in close to you today...and keep you first in our hearts and lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday Services

Christmas Calendar 2018

Sunday 2nd December

10.30am Communion Service - 1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday 9th December

10.30am Morning Worship - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Guest Speaker Revd Jerry Newson (Regional Minister)
6.30pm Carols in the Belfry

Sunday 16th December

10.30am Family Service - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday 22nd December

3.00pm Family Fun @ 3 - Make a Christingle for the Carol Service

Sunday 23rd December

10.30am Morning Worship - 4th Sunday of Advent
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 25th December

10.30am Christmas Morning Family Service

Sunday 30th December

10.30am Family Service

Other Events and Activities

There is an open invitation for prayer at the end of each morning service. If you would like prayer, with or without the anointing of oil, then please make your way to the front row of chairs during our closing songs.

PARENTS: Could we remind you to collect your children from Sunday School straight after the service. The team need to pack away and cannot assume responsibility for children after the service.

Hearing aid users: We have a hearing loop so please turn your hearing aid to the setting “T”.

Family Fun @ 3

Please come along and support this family orientated, community congregation on December 22nd from 3.00pm - 5.00pm. If you are able to join us as a volunteer “Enabler” it would be great to see you. If you would like some flyers to hand to family or friends then please see Jonathan.

The following regular activities take place during the week. If you would like more information such as venues, please do ask.

House Group:

House Group meets each Tuesday evening at 8pm. Please speak to Jonathan or Jon for the venue.

Coffee Club:

Coffee Club meets every other Friday at 10.30am for the more “senior” members of our fellowship and community. There will be tea, coffee, cake, board games and other fun activities. Coffee Club will meet on 7th & 21st December

Prayer:

Regular Prayer takes place at the Tuesday House Group and there is a Women’s Prayer Meeting on Wednesday mornings in term-time. If you have specific prayer requests then please contact Jonathan.

“Little Ark” Parent and toddler group:

Term-time Thursdays, 9.00-11.30am. Speak to Maxine for more details.

Spark (From September):

Spark: 5.30pm - 6.30pm Term time Thursdays. For children in Reception to Yr3.

Spark+: 5.30pm - 6.30pm Term time Fridays. For children in Yr4 - Yr6.

Coffee Club at Earlswood Baptist Church

Tea, coffee, cake, a chat and some games.

For the over 55's, every other Friday you can meet old friends or make some new friends in a relaxed environment.

(Suggested £1 donation per week)

7th & 21st December



**Please join
us for our next
“Bring and Share Lunch”,
December 16th after
the morning service.**

**Please speak to
Maxine about what
to bring.**

