

The secret of Christmas is not just that God gives us his Son  
... it's that God trusts us to take care of him.

God trusts us. Me, you, we.

Isn't that amazing!

After all that has happened, all that has been done, we are  
trustworthy. When we live up to the trust God has placed in us, we  
live incarnation.

The secret of Christmas is that we can be trusted with a child's heart.

Lets live up to that trust.

Now and forever.

Amen

I sometimes think we expect too much of Christmas Day. We try to  
crowd into it the long arrears of kindness and humanity of the  
whole year. As for me, I like to take my Christmas a little at a time,  
all through the year. And thus I drift along into the holidays - let  
them overtake me unexpectedly - waking up some find morning and  
suddenly saying to myself: "Why, this is Christmas Day!"

- David Grayson

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood  
puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?

It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without  
packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his  
puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't  
before.

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if  
Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.

- Dr. Seuss

## Some Christmas prayers & blessings

*Some blessings from 'the Catholic  
Book of Blessings' & [www.godweb.org](http://www.godweb.org)*

### **A Blessing of the Christmas Tree in the Home:**

This blessing can be prayed on the day  
that the family puts up the Christmas tree. Once the lights are ready  
to be switched on, the prayer can begin.

*All make the Sign of the Cross. A member of the family turns the  
lights of the tree on and the blessing is then recited:*

Lord our God, We praise you for the light of creation: the  
sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel: The Law, the prophets,  
and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel,  
God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the  
wonder of your love.

Lord God, Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine  
this tree. May the light and cheer it gives us be a sign of the  
joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come  
to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **A Blessing of the Crib in the Home:**

This blessing can be prayed when the crib is being put in place in the  
home. When the final figures are ready to be put into the crib, the  
family might gather around it and recite the following blessing:

*All make the sign of the cross*



God of every national and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: When our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, Bless all who look upon this manger, May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, Who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Family Table Prayer for Christmas Day:**

Loving God, on this Christmas day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy.

Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home.

We pray that our departed loved ones may now sit at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead.

We ask this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. **Amen**

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**Let me not wrap, stack, box, bag, tie, tag, bundle, seal, keep Christmas.** Christmas kept is liable to mould. Let me give Christmas away, unwrapped, by exuberant armfuls. Let me share, dance, live Christmas unpretentiously, merrily, responsibly with overflowing hands, tireless steps and sparkling eyes. Christmas given away will stay fresh—even until it comes again."

-- Let Me Not Keep Christmas . . . . . Linda Felver  
A Book of Christmas, Nashville: Upper Rooms, 1988, p. 48

**For those who work on Christmas Day**

Lord. As I spend today going about my work, help me to put aside any bitterness that I'm not celebrating at home with loved ones. I ask you God, to give me a special sense of your presence as I meet people, that I may shed on them the light of the Bethlehem Star, the Spirit of Christmas. Amen.

**Before opening presents**

Lord and Giver of all good things, the magi travelled for miles to bring the Christ child the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of life itself. Amen

**From Robert Louis Stevenson:**

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.