

The Shema

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

African-American Spiritual

History

This American classic was popularized by the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a renowned black choir that introduced America and the world to the African-American or Negro Spirituals. On one remarkable tour of England in 1873, they gave performances for Queen Victoria, a D. L. Moody Crusade Meeting and at Spurgeon’s Tabernacle in London. “Go, Tell It” was first published in 1907 in a collection called, *Folk Song of the American Negro*, edited by John Wesley Work, Jr. Work was the conductor of the Fisk Jubilee Singers in the early part of the twentieth century. According to Work’s son, John W. Work, III, he remembered as a child the Fisk University students singing this song as they went from building to building before day-break on Christmas morning.

Words

Refrain Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

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| <p>1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light: <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3. And lo! When they had seen it
They all bowed down and prayed;
They traveled on together
To where the babe was laid. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>2. The shepherds feared and trembled,
When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth: <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>4. Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn: <i>Refrain</i></p> |

Cover: **Angel of the Guard** , 1646 *Pereda, Antonio de (?)*



CHRIST the
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Family and Individual Devotions
Week of December 24, 2006

Meditations in Deuteronomy

Fourth Week of Advent/Christmastide

The Twelve Days of Christmas

This season of Christmastide runs from Christmas Day until Epiphany on January 6th. Probably most known by way of a certain song with a partridge, this season is a great opportunity for us to worship our Lord and Savior who was born a man to set men free. Please use the following prayers, Scripture, and discussions to enter into this time of celebration for our Messiah who has come and is coming again.



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Christmastide Litany

Each day this week read through the following litany and then read and discuss the passage for the specific day below.

Responsive Reading

Leader: Why do we celebrate Christmas?

Family: **Jesus coming into the world is the fulfillment of hopes and dreams for the long promised Redeemer. When we see God answering prayer, it is good for His people to praise Him and celebrate.**

Leader: Why is Jesus called God's only Son when we are also His children?

Family: **Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We are adopted children of God—adopted by grace through Christ.**

Sing

Read aloud the history of the Christmas carol "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (see back) and sing it together as a family.

Read Scripture and Discuss it

Read the passage for each particular day below.

Pray

Lord Christ, we exalt you for you having laid your glory aside by making yourself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant and offering Yourself in humble obedience by a shameful and cruel death on the cross. Forgive us when we despise Your glory by veiling our hearts with sin and pride. Give us new eyes to see the brilliance of your glory in all things. Make our hearts sensitive to your unsurpassed greatness that we might reflect the image of your powerful and magnificent glory. Amen.

Christmas Day 12/25 Read **Luke 2:1-20** and consider what it means for people with whom God is pleased to know His peace.

Recite the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and listen intently to the Lord who is One.

Pray for Christ's peace to actively reign in our hearts and lives.

Serve someone according to the riches with which God has blessed you.

Second Day of Christmas, 12/26 Read **Deuteronomy 18:15-19** and **John 12:49-50**. How did Jesus consciously fulfill the promise given through Moses?

Pray for understanding and obedience to the Word in our congregation, community, and world.

Meditate on the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) considering God's greatness.

Third DOC, 12/27 Read **Deuteronomy 34:1-12**. For what does Deuteronomy leave us longing? How does that lead us to Christ?

Recite the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and discuss how Christ fulfills it.

Pray for CTR to be a blessing to the city of Portland.

Fourth DOC, 12/28 Read **Second Corinthians 4:1-7**. How does the glory of Christ's face eclipse the glory Moses saw?

Meditate on the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9).

Pray for the light of Christ to shine throughout Portland. Pray for God to open the eyes of your neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members. Plead with Him on their behalf and ask Him to use you in helping them to see Him as He really is.

Fifth DOC, 12/29 Come to the prayer meeting **this morning at 6:30**.

Read **Deuteronomy 34:1-12** and **Acts 2:22-36**.

How did the miraculous signs of Christ outshine those of Moses? How is Jesus the better prophet?

Recite the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and discuss how Christ fulfills it.

Pray for CTR to be a community of faith that loves God and keeps His law.

Ask the Lord to incline our hearts to love righteousness and our feet to walk in His paths. Ask Him to give us boldness in proclaiming His goodness and might in Portland, New England, and the world.

Sixth DOC, 12/30 Read **Hebrews 3:1-6**. Why is Christ's faithfulness compared to Moses? Why is it significant that Christ was faithful in every thing? Why is that our confidence?

Pray for God to continue to work in this community of faith and in His Church throughout this region that in all things His supremacy would be made known and relished.

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do whatever you can today that will help to make tomorrow less rushed and hectic. If you have homework do it now instead of waiting until then. Get ready for Monday today so that you can focus on worship tomorrow.

Pray for your neighbors, co-workers, and family members who are still strangers to Christ that they will be overcome by His grace.