

DECEMBER 2025 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of December 2025.

If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family.

Dear Friends in Christ,

December is one of those months when time seems to move in two directions at once. On one hand, the days rush by—full of concerts, gatherings, shopping lists, and family plans. Yet, on the other hand, the Church calls us to slow down, to wait, to make room for something holy. That’s the paradox of Advent: in the midst of all the bustle, we’re invited to prepare our hearts for the quiet miracle of God-with-us.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. That small detail still speaks volumes. The Savior of the world entered into a place that had no vacancy. And ever since, the question lingers: will we make room for Him this time?

Making room for Christ may not mean clearing our calendars (though that might help). It means clearing our hearts—of bitterness, fear, or distraction—so that His peace can take root. It means noticing the lonely neighbor, listening to the weary coworker, forgiving an old hurt, or pausing long enough to pray, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

Each candle we light on the Advent wreath is a reminder that the light is growing, even when the nights are long. Hope, peace, joy, and love are not just words—they are gifts Christ brings anew to those who wait and watch for Him.

So this December, as carols fill the air and the nativity scenes appear, I invite you to join me in preparing room for Christ—not just in our church sanctuary, but in our daily lives. May His coming fill your homes with peace, your hearts with joy, and your days with the quiet assurance that God is near.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rev. Jonathan Greer

DECEMBER WORSHIP

November 30

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Isa 2:1-5; Ps 122 ; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44

Call To Worship - Lighting the Advent Candle - Hope

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4). Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us. We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of all times, we confess that we have not lived as people of Your peace. We cling to past hurts or future worries, forgetting Your call to walk in Your ways here and now. Like Isaiah's vision of swords beaten into plowshares, we admit the times we have chosen anger over reconciliation, selfishness over service. As Matthew reminds us to be watchful for Christ's coming, help us turn from sin, live in hope, and share Your good news of peace with the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of hope and light, we thank You for Your steadfast love. As Isaiah proclaimed, You call us to live in peace, to turn swords into plowshares, and to walk in Your ways. Help us to be faithful and watchful, sharing Your message of hope and peace with all nations. Receive these offerings, O God, and use them to bring justice, reconciliation, and joy to the world. We rejoice in the promise that Christ is coming soon, to make all things new, and we await that day with hearts full of hope. Amen.

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## **December 7**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

### **Call To Worship - Lighting the Advent Candle - Peace**

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation. We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

### **Prayer of Confession**

God of hope and peace, when our faith is rooted deeply in you, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness. But often our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, the source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Continued on next page ...

# DECEMBER WORSHIP

December 7 continued...

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. In this season of turning and anticipation, we offer these gifts as signs that we long to live by your story. Use them and use us to bear fruit worthy of repentance: fruit of justice, compassion, hospitality, and peace. Let our generosity reflect the nearness of your kingdom and the urgency of your call. In the wilderness of fear and want, may this offering clear a path for hope to be seen, known, and shared. Send us by your Spirit to give ourselves for others. Through our long expected Lord and Savior Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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December 14

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Isa 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11

Call To Worship - Lighting the Advent Candle - Joy

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation. We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10). We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for earthly pleasure and false happiness. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

December 21 Darkness to Light Lessons and Carols, and December 24 Candlelight booklet enclosed.

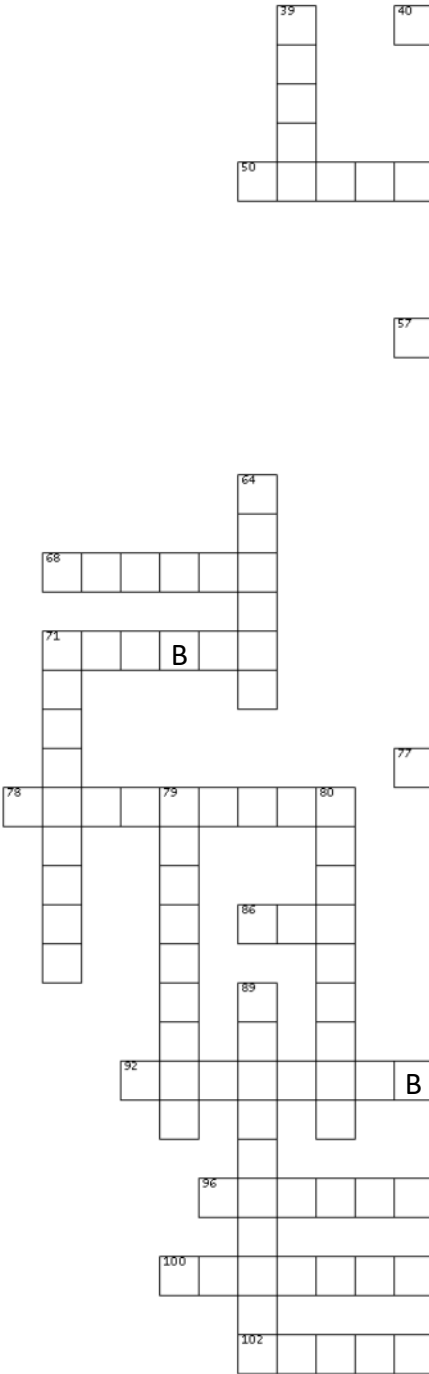
December 28

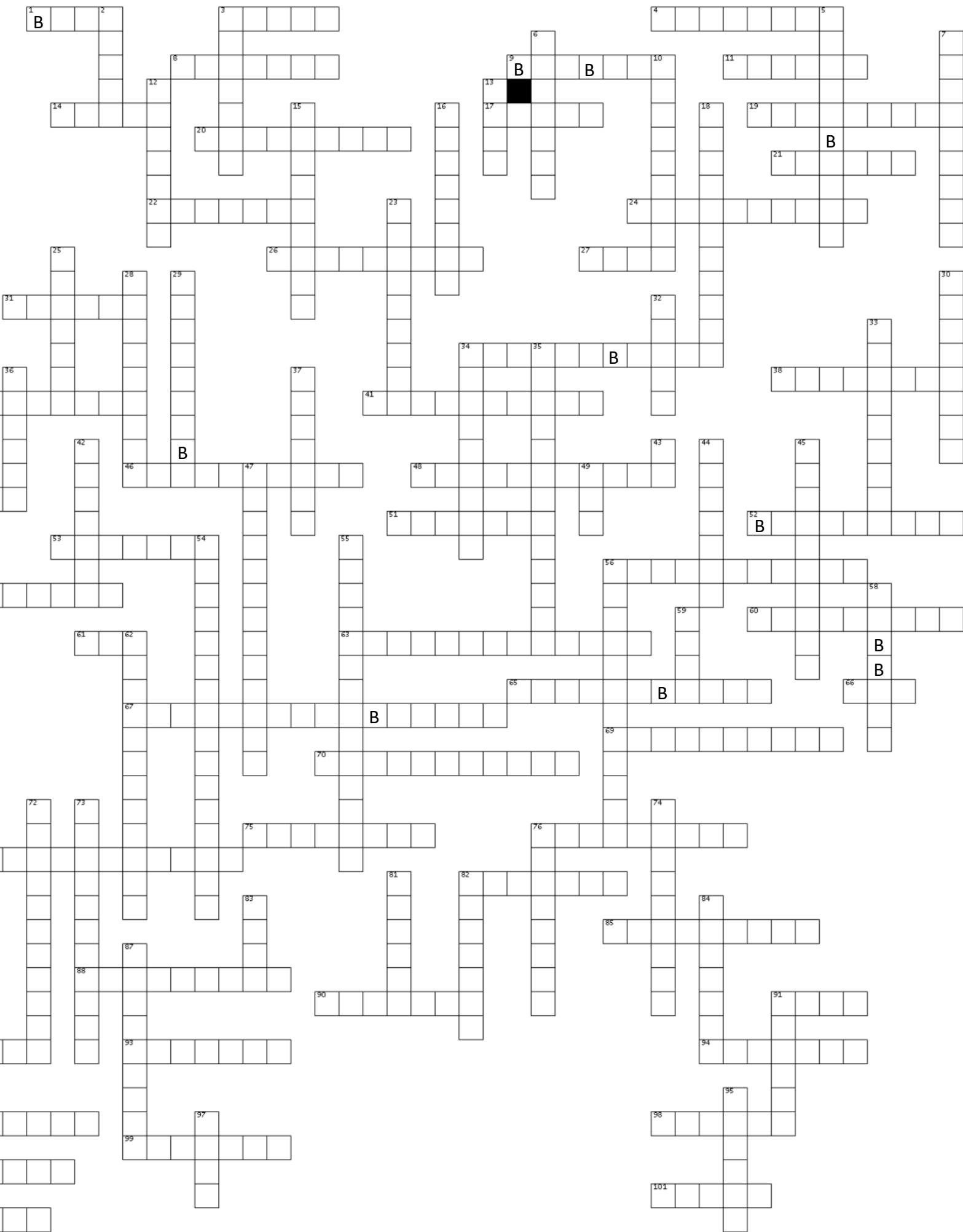
Scriptures to read and meditate on: Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23

Our worship service on Dec 29 will be a service of Christmas carols. If you cannot join us in person or online, we encourage you to spend time reflecting on the birth of our Savior, reading the scriptures above and maybe sing a carol or two yourself. Merry Christmas and Blessings for 2026.

Fit all the words below into the grid.

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|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Advent calendar | Giving | Reindeer games |
| Angel | Glitter | Rejoice |
| Baubles | Hallelujah | Reunion |
| Bethlehem | Hearth | Ribbons |
| Blessings | Holiday spirit | Santa |
| Blizzard | Holly | Shepherds |
| Bows | Homecoming | Shortbread |
| Candy cane | Hope | Skating |
| Candles | Hospitality | Sleigh ride |
| Candlelight | Icicles | Sleigh bells |
| Carols | Ivy | Snowflake |
| Celebration | Joy | Snow globe |
| Charity | Kris Kringle | Snowman |
| Cheer | Kindness | Sparkle |
| Chestnuts | Lanterns | Spruce |
| Chimney | Lights | Stable |
| Choir | Magi | Star |
| Christmas | Manger straw | St. Nicholas |
| Church bells | Merriment | Stocking stuffers |
| Cider | Midnight Mass | Sugarplum |
| Cozy | Miracle | Tidings |
| Creche | Mistletoe | Tinsel |
| Cookies | Mittens | Traditions |
| Drummer boy | Nativity scene | Tree skirt |
| Eggnog | Nice | Trimmings |
| Elf | Noel | Turkey |
| Evergreen | North Pole | Turtledoves |
| Festivities | Naughty | Twinkle |
| Figgy pudding | Ornaments | Warmth |
| Fireplace | Packages | Wassail |
| Fir | Pageant | Wintertime |
| Fruitcake | Partridge | Wonderland |
| Garland | Peace | Workshop |
| Gathering | Peppermint | Woolen |
| Gifts tags | Pinecones | Wrapping |
| Gingerbread house | Poinsettia | Wreath |
| | | Yule log |





Christmas Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

X S N N G T D G O L M Y L D M E S S I A H C C S L O Q I U P
I U Y I N Z L P S I S J I I P B W N W Y H T H W S X C K K T
E M O E B Y O J R M C R J V K H N Y L R T A R A H M V E N H
E P V X P K G A K U Q O F K V K I I I N R M I D E D E E T F
G D O L P E C L D A U L Y A E A M S K B I V S D P B I R T S
A F F H Z L S N O R H M E E W A T P T Z B Q T L H U I W W J
Z C H A E B I L N R T Q P P F M E F P Y S M M I E B L T K N
L E U N A M M E C Q I E K Y A X V G S T H O A N R G G S A A
N L S E Y D Y P H T R A L S A M O A W K A N S G D Z R T F N
O S D N P C E Z R W J O D K U E L O E R I M E J S D I A U Y
I H T B E A E S I M H A R K Z V B D N F S D V R F V W Z R B
T A J A C C U B S H Y Z C T A Q L U D G S V E J I V F M Z N
A L T E B B N C T M E H E L H T E B O M E E E T E U A E A M
N L L F U L F I L L M E N T G K A Y O C M C Y Y L L S T K E
R E U O X V E X K P R I D T R S H U G Q I S C K D T I I U H
A L R S M B H H T N Q H K I G V B V J O C E S L W V Q M N E
C U V E B Y N H Y H A N V I R G I N J E H R D T I P C M T L
N J X E D H N S O U J R H T S K E E N P S J E T U F A A U H
I A H H P E T A I L R M F H I H R E O D N U Y G D N R N A T
R H Q E G A E R H T Y S U S N E C R Y H D D S Y N I O U N E
I I S A R G Y M I P H N C K J M P Y C Y D N V F T A L E G B
L O K C Y N J P E S I Y I H E A V E N L Y H O S T N M L E F
J L B I R V A B Y R G P O G V L H P L E O N O I J B O N L O
R P E M A E H C E R C K E H H R I I R A K S I T T S R U S R
O O K P M S H E P H E R D S R T B G Y A Q C U Q K A X O P A
M Q I S S G N I D I T P F Y B D N Q H P I E V L B D V K F T
E A B V E O M E A B E J M A T K P Q T T O S F E F J P L G S
Y H G T A V G Z U W M B W O R S H I P I I N E P C K Q S A D
I C I I O S N E M E S I W K I N G O F K I N G S S R P K R S
K X D G Z Z L U R A Y X D Z Y G K N S C R W O T P O C V H Y

Find the **60 bold** words or phrases relating to Christmas

<i>Jesus</i>	<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Praise</i>
<i>Christ</i>	<i>Good News</i>	<i>Carol</i>
<i>Nativity</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Nativity Scene</i>
<i>Bethlehem</i>	<i>Virgin</i>	<i>Creche</i>
<i>Manger</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Epiphany</i>
<i>Mary</i>	<i>Swaddling</i>	<i>Star of Bethlehem</i>
<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Innkeeper</i>	<i>Prophecy</i>
<i>Shepherds</i>	<i>Wise Men</i>	<i>Fulfillment</i>
<i>Magi</i>	<i>Frankincense</i>	<i>Light</i>
<i>Angels</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Shepherd's Field</i>
<i>Star</i>	<i>Myrrh</i>	<i>Journey</i>
<i>Emmanuel</i>	<i>Heavenly Host</i>	<i>Census</i>
<i>Savior</i>	<i>Gloria</i>	<i>Salvation</i>
<i>Incarnation</i>	<i>Hallelujah</i>	<i>Messiah's Birth</i>
<i>Advent</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<i>Holy Family</i>
<i>Messiah</i>	<i>Joy</i>	<i>King of Kings</i>
<i>Holy Night</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>Redeemer</i>
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>Immanuel</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Rejoice</i>	<i>Miracle</i>
<i>Noel</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Tidings</i>

Help the Shepherd Boy Follow the Star

