

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTWORKERS



Christmas Joy Empowerment LightWorker™ Series



Channelling and Manual by
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Christmas Joy Empowerment (LM™ Series)

It is a particular pleasure to offer this Christmas Joy Empowerment, which I have channeled as part of the LightWorker™ Miscellaneous Attunements. I trust that all who receive it will know something of the joy and peace of Christmas.

Alasdair Bothwell Gordon
Aberdeen, Scotland (UK)

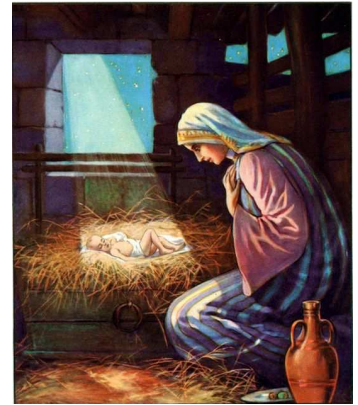
LightWorker™ Miscellaneous Attunements

A Telling Silence (Tineke Wijnker) (LightWorker™ Series)
Abundantia Demeter Empowerment (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
Advent Attunement (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
Angelic Pink Rose Empowerment (Andrew Brocklebank) (LightWorker™ Series)
Angels of the Heart Empowerment (Carol Ann Tessier) (LightWorker™ Series)
Aphrodite's Birth Empowerment (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
Breathe of Bliss (Andrea "Aridanne" Fetsko) (LightWorker™ Series)
Brigid Empowerment (Nan Fahey & Jens Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
Blus Moon Attunement (Wulf "Jedami" Dietzel) (LightWorker™ Series)
Budai (Hotei) Initiation (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
Buddha's Bliss Attunement (Lee "Golden Eagle" Newman) (LightWorker™ Series)
Candlemas Empowerment (Alasdair Bothwell Gordon) (LightWorker™ Series)
Christmas Joy Empowerment (Alasdair Bothwell Gordon) (LightWorker™ Series)
Day of the Dead Attunement (Lee "Golden Eagle" Newman) (LightWorker™ Series)
Epiphany Empowerment (Alasdair Bothwell Gordon) (LightWorker™ Series)
Galactic Center Energy Attunement (Wulf "Jedami" Dietzel) (LightWorker™ Series)
Ganesha Triple Empowerment (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
Gilgamesh Empowerment (Alasdair Bothwell Gordon) (LightWorker™ Series)
Golden Heart of Usui (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
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Fusion Reiki (Rev. Dr. Jason Storm) (LightWorker™ Series)
Hands of Jesus Empowerment (Alasdair Bothwell Gordon) (LightWorker™ Series)
Joy of Being Attunement (Lee "Golden Eagle" Newman) (LightWorker™ Series)
Lai Life Elixir Attunement (Wulf "Jedami" Dietzel) (LightWorker™ Series)
Lakshmi Empowerment (Jens Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
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Magic Touch of Reiki (Roger T. Hill) (LightWorker™ Series)
Masks of Mexico Attunement (Lee "Golden Eagle" Newman) (LightWorker™ Series)
Milky Way Home Galaxy Empowerment (Wulf "Jedami" Dietzel) (LightWorker™ Series)
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Seven Ray Attunements (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
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Usui Precepts Empowerment (Jens "Tehuti" Soeborg) (LightWorker™ Series)
Valentines Day Empowerments (Andrea Fetsko & Nan Fahey) (LightWorker™ Series)
Yule Reiki (Carol Ann Tessier) (LightWorker™ Series)



Christmas Joy Empowerment

Christmas is an annual holiday that marks the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Christmas celebrations often combine the marking of Jesus' birth with various other traditions and customs, many of which were influenced by ancient winter festivals. Christmas traditions include the display of Nativity scenes, holly and Christmas trees, the exchange of gifts and cards and the arrival of Father Christmas (Santa Claus) on Christmas Eve. Popular Christmas themes include the promotion of goodwill, compassion, and peace.



Christmas Day in the western tradition always falls on 25th December. The date as a birth date for Jesus is traditional and is not considered to be historically accurate. The word "Christmas" is an abbreviation of "Christ's mass." It is derived from the Middle English *Christemasse* and Old English *Cristes mæsse*, a phrase first recorded in 1038. Dutch has a similar word, *Kerstmis* often shortened to *Kerst*. The words for the holiday in Spanish (*navidad*), Portuguese (*natal*), Polish (*Boże Narodzenie*), French (*noël*), Italian (*natale*), and Catalan (*nadal*) refer more explicitly to the Nativity. In contrast, the German name *Weihnachten* means simply "hallowed night." After the Christian conversion of Anglo-Saxon Britain, Christmas was referred to as *geol*, the name of the pre-Christian solstice festival from which the current English word 'Yule' is derived. In Scandinavia they kept the old word Jul after they had adopted Christianity around year 1000.

Christmas is sometimes shortened to *Xmas*, an abbreviation that has a long history. In early Greek versions of the New Testament, the letter X (chi), is the first letter of Christ (*Χριστός*). Since the mid-sixteenth century X, or the similar Roman letter X, was used as an abbreviation for Christ.



According to New Testament accounts, Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary, assisted by her husband Joseph, in the city of Bethlehem. They had come from their home in Nazareth to be taxed, according to the decree of Caesar Augustus. Joseph had to go to Bethlehem as he was of the lineage of David and Bethlehem was King David's town. The birth of Jesus took place in a stable, as there was no room in the inn and the infant Jesus was laid in a manger. Shepherds from the fields surrounding Bethlehem were told of the birth by an angel and were the first visitors to see the child.

Christians believe that the birth of Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies made hundreds of years before his birth, including that he would be born in Bethlehem.

Remembering the Nativity is a central way of celebrate Christmas in the western world. In churches and schools, children perform plays re-telling the events of the Nativity, or sing carols that refer to the event. Some people also display a small re-creation of the Nativity, known as a Nativity scene, in their homes, using figurines to portray the key characters of the event.



Nativity scenes traditionally include the Three Wise Men or magi, Balthazar, Melchior, and Caspar (these names and number are not recorded in the Biblical narrative) who are said to have followed a star, known as the Star of Bethlehem, found Jesus, and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

A winter festival was traditionally the most popular festival of the year in many cultures, in part because there was less agricultural work to be done during the winter. The prominence of Christmas in modern times may reflect the continuing influence of the winter festival tradition, including the festivals of Saturnalia (17-24 December), the Unconquered Sun (25 December), the Winter Solstice and Yule Festival (late December to early January). By the time the Christian message reached northern Europe, these ancient festivals were well established.

Origen, a father of the early Christian church, argued against the celebration of birthdays, including the birth of Christ. It is not known when or why December 25 became associated with Jesus' birth. The New Testament does not give a specific date and it would be unlikely for shepherds to be watching their sheep in December.

The identification of the birth date of Jesus did not at first inspire feasting or celebration. The earliest reference to the celebration of Christmas is an illuminated manuscript compiled in Rome in 354. In the east, meanwhile, Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus as part of Epiphany (January 6), although this festival focused more on the baptism of Jesus.

In the Early Middle Ages, Christmas Day was overshadowed by Epiphany, which in the west focused on the visit of the magi. But the Medieval calendar gradually became dominated by Christmas-related holidays. The prominence of Christmas Day increased after Charlemagne was crowned on Christmas Day in 800. William the Conqueror was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066.

Christmas in Britain

By the High Middle Ages, the holiday had become prominent. King Richard II of England hosted a Christmas feast in 1377 at which twenty-eight oxen and three hundred sheep were eaten. The Yule boar was a common feature of medieval Christmas feasts. Carolling also became popular. "Misrule" — drunkenness, promiscuity, gambling — was also an important aspect of the festival and frequently got out of hand.



At the time of the Reformation, Protestants condemned Christmas celebration as "trappings of popery" and the "rags of the Beast". The Catholic Church responded by promoting the festival in a more religiously oriented form.

In Scotland, the Reformation was probably the most radical in Europe and the Christian Year was completely abolished. When the compiler of this manual was a boy in Scotland, shops were generally open on Christmas Day. At that time, school attendance on Christmas Day was still within living memory.

In England, following the Parliamentary victory over King Charles I during the English Civil War, Puritan rulers banned Christmas, in 1647. Rioting broke out in several cities, and for several weeks Canterbury was controlled by the rioters, who decorated doorways with holly and shouted royalist slogans. The Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 ended the ban, but most of the Anglican Protestant clergy still disapproved of Christmas celebrations.

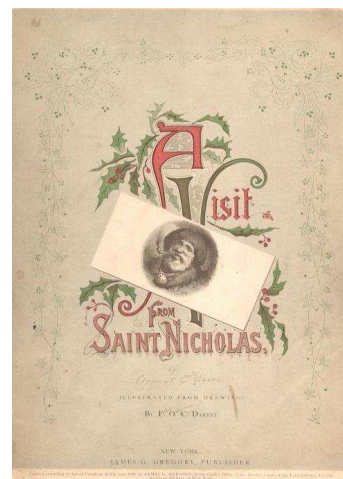
Christmas in the United States



In Colonial America, the Puritans of New England disapproved of Christmas and its celebration was outlawed in Boston from 1659 to 1681. At the same time, Christian residents of Virginia and New York observed the holiday freely. Christmas fell out of favour in the United States after the American Revolution, as it was considered to be an English custom.

During the first half of the 19th century there was a move in England to revive some of the Christmas traditions. Charles Dickens' book *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, played a major role in reinventing Christmas as a holiday emphasizing family, goodwill, and generosity of spirit.

Interest in Christmas in America was revived in the 1820s by several short stories by Washington Irving appearing in his *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon* and "Old Christmas" and by Clement Clarke Moore's 1822 poem *A Visit From St. Nicholas* (popularly known by its first line: *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Irving's stories depicted harmonious warm-hearted holiday traditions he claimed to have observed in England. Although some argue that Irving actually invented the traditions he described, they were widely imitated by his American readers. The numerous German immigrants - as well as the homecomings following the American Civil War - helped promote the holiday. Christmas was declared a U.S. Federal holiday in 1870.



Christmas Issues



In 1914, the first year of World War I, there was an unofficial truce between German and British troops in France. Soldiers on both sides spontaneously began to sing carols and stopped fighting. The truce began on Christmas Day and continued for some time afterward. There are many stories that the truce included a football game between the trench lines.

Throughout the 20th century, the United States experienced controversy over the nature of Christmas, and its dual status as a religious feast day and a secular

holiday of the same name. Some considered the U.S. government's recognition of Christmas as a federal holiday to be a violation of the separation of church and state, although the Supreme Court declared otherwise, since the holiday has a valid secular purpose. At the same time, many devout Christians object to what they see as the vulgarization of one of their sacred observances by secular commercial society. Calls to return to "the true meaning of Christmas" are common. There have been many moves in Europe and America to change the Christmas season into a secular Winter Festival.



Without doubt, the contemporary emphasis on the commercial aspects of Christmas's sometimes overshadows the more spiritual aspects and has the potential to make the holiday less about charity, faith, or family gatherings, and more about the greed of receiving gifts and overindulging in food and drink. As long ago as 1850, in her book *The First Christmas in New England*, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote of a character who complained that the true meaning of Christmas was being lost in a shopping spree.

Saint Nicolas (Santa Claus)

In Western culture, where the holiday is characterized by the exchange of gifts among friends and family members, some of the gifts are attributed to a familiar figure called Santa Claus (also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas or St. Nikolaus, Sinterklaas, Kris Kringle, Joulupukki, Julemanden, Jultomten, Weihnachtsmann, Saint Basil and Father Frost). The 1823 poem *A Visit from Saint Nicholas* had popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts and seasonal Christmas shopping began to assume economic importance.

The popular modern image of Santa Claus was created by the German-American cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902). By the 1880s, Nast's Santa had evolved into the form we now recognize. The image was standardized by advertisers in the 1920s.

Father Christmas, who predates the Santa Claus character, was first recorded in the 15th century, but was associated with holiday merrymaking and drunkenness. In Victorian Britain, his image was remade to match that of Santa. The French Père Noël evolved along similar lines, eventually adopting the Santa image. In Italy, Babbo Natale acts as Santa Claus, while the female La Befana, is the bringer of gifts and arrives on the eve of the Epiphany. It is said that La Befana set out to bring the baby Jesus gifts, but got lost along the way. Now, she brings gifts to all children.



In some cultures Santa Claus is accompanied by Knecht Ruprecht, or Black Peter. In other versions, elves make the toys. His wife is referred to as Mrs. Claus. The current tradition in several Latin American countries (such as Venezuela) holds that while Santa makes the toys, he then gives them to the Baby Jesus, who is the one who actually delivers them to the children's homes.



In Southern Germany, Switzerland, Austria, South Tirol and Liechtenstein the Christkind brings the presents. The German St. Nikolaus is not identical with the Weihnachtsman (who is the German version of Santa Claus). St. Nikolaus is portrayed dressed as a bishop, bringing small gifts (usually candies, nuts and fruits) on December 6, accompanied by Knecht Ruprecht.

Although many parents around the world routinely teach their children about Santa Claus, some have come to reject this practice, considering it deceptive.

Christmas Tree



The Christmas tree is often explained as a Christianization of pagan tradition and ritual surrounding the Winter Solstice, which included the use of evergreen boughs, and an adaptation of pagan tree worship. The English language phrase "Christmas tree" is first recorded in 1835 and represents an importation from the German language. The modern Christmas tree tradition is believed to have begun in Germany in the 18th century though many argue that Martin Luther began the tradition in the 16th century. From Germany the custom was introduced to the United Kingdom, first via Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, and then more successfully by Prince Albert during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Since the 19th century, the poinsettia plant has been associated with Christmas. Other popular holiday plants include holly, mistletoe, red amaryllis, and Christmas cactus. Along with a Christmas tree, the interior of a home may be decorated with these plants, along with garlands and evergreen foliage.

In Australia, North and South America, and to a lesser extent Europe, it is traditional to decorate the outside of houses with lights and sometimes with illuminated sleighs, snowmen, and other Christmas figures. Municipalities often sponsor decorations as well. Christmas banners may be hung from street lights and Christmas trees placed in the town square.



In the Western world, rolls of brightly-coloured paper with secular or religious Christmas motifs are manufactured for the purpose of wrapping gifts. Christmas is typically the largest annual stimulus for many economies. Sales increase dramatically in almost all retail areas.

In most areas, Christmas Day is the least active day of the year for business and commerce. Almost all retail, commercial and institutional businesses are closed, and most industries cease activity (more than any other day of the year). Film studios release many high-budget movies in the holiday season, including Christmas films, fantasy movies or high-tone dramas with high production values.

Christmas has been the inspiration for some of the most beautiful art and music ever produced. It has also been the inspiration for items of poor taste and for some excruciatingly awful songs.



Although it is easy to judge the worst elements of Christmas - the greed, the commercialization, overindulgence and general tawdriness - it would be churlish and ungrateful not to concede that there *is* such a thing as the Christmas Spirit. It is easy to say, "Humbug!" like Scrooge, yet here is often a generosity of spirit among people that is not found at other times of the year. There *is* a touch of "magic" in the air. That is the energy I want to capture and pass to you, so that you can pass it to others.

But it is also right to remember that not all associations with Christmas are positive. According to the New Testament, Herod the King was insanely jealous of the birth of a child whom he saw as a threat and he ordered all the young male children in Bethlehem to be slain. In many Christian traditions, this is remembered as the Holy Innocents' Day. Today, many people still suffer and children die of starvation. Also, Christmas can be a difficult time for people who feel lonely and forgotten. For them, the romantic picture-book Christmas is not a reality.

So, take the magic, take the stars and the tinsel, the happiness, the hope for a better world and pass on this spirit of joy to those around you. Perhaps that is the greatest part of the Christmas Joy.

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine
Love to God and all men
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-94)



Christmas Season (Christian Traditions)

- **Advent:** four weeks prior to Christmas - preparing for the birth of Christ.
- **12 Days of Christmas:** December 25 through January 6

- **Saint Nicholas' Day:** December 6
- **Santa Lucia's Day:** December 13
- **Christmas Eve:** December 24
- **Christmas Day:** December 25 - celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- **Saint Stephen's Day:** December 26
- **Saint John the Evangelist's Day:** December 27
- **Holy Innocents' Day:** December 28
- **Saint Sylvester's Day:** December 31
- **Feast of the Circumcision:** January 1
- **Twelfth Night:** January 5 - Epiphany Eve
- **Epiphany:** January 6 - the arrival of the Magi.
- **Eastern Orthodox Christmas:** January 7 - Julian calendar
- **Candlemas:** February 2

