



CHRISTUS REX

Monthly eMagazine of Christ the King, Claremont
Anglican Church of Southern Africa

December 2021

We are called to love, worship and obey God; to put His love into practice in the power of the Holy Spirit through our witness and service, that all may know Christ our King

★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
AMEN

CHRISTMAS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

Many southern Christmas traditions are similar to those observed in northern lands. In the weeks leading up to Christmas shopping malls and houses are decorated; Christmas songs and carols are played; Christmas trees are installed in homes and public places; and children delight in anticipating a visit from Santa Claus. On Christmas Day many people attend church services, family and friends gather to exchange gifts and enjoy special Christmas food.

But as the seasons are reversed to those in the Northern Hemisphere some southern Christmas traditions are unique. Christmas day occurs midway through the long summer holidays and the heat of early summer influences how we in the Southern Hemisphere celebrate Christmas.

Many families spend the Christmas holidays away from home, heading to holiday homes or campgrounds for a long break over the Christmas period. Christmas Day is most often spent out of doors; in home gardens, picnic grounds, or going to a beach.

Most families no longer serve a traditional hot roast Christmas dinner. Cold turkey and ham, seafood and salads are often served instead. If traditional Christmas pudding is served this will be with cold custard, ice cream or cream. Fruit salad topped with whipped cream and served with festive ice-cream is a popular Christmas dessert.

[Source: Adapted from <https://travelteam.com/christmas-traditions-southern-hemisphere/>]

The Southern Cross looks down

by Rev. Mother Francis Tobin,
Sisters of Loreto. 1890 - 1910

O little Babe of Bethlehem!
The Southern Cross shines down,
As once a star shone glorious,
Above an eastern town.

The hearts of Bethlehem are cold,
The streets are hushed with snow,
The doors are barred, there is no room
Dear Lord, where will You go?

O come, sweet Jesus, come to us!
New Zealand's sun is warm,
And here are loving hearts enough,
To shield You from the storm.

Come! We will give You all we have,
Each bird and flower and tree;
The breeze that stirs the silver ferns,
The music of the sea.

Bell-birds shall ring their silver peal
From gullies green and deep
And mingle with the Tui's note
To call You from Your sleep

O little Babe of Bethlehem,
New Zealand loves You well,
Come to our hearts this Christmas,
And there forever dwell.

An Upside Down Christmas

By Shirley Murray 1931 - 2020

Carol our Christmas, an upside-down Christmas;
The snow is not falling, and trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,
Warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.

Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,
Water and river and lure of the beach.
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,
Sing a nativity summer can reach!

Shepherds and musterers move over hillsides.
Finding not angels but sheep to be shorn;

Wise ones make journeys whatever the season.
Searching for signs of the truth to be born.

Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,
Made in the moment a woman gives birth;
Hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
Everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.

Carol our Christmas, an upside-down Christmas;
Snow is not falling, and trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,
Warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.

A CAROL FOR SOUTHERN LANDS

By Hilda Fuggle 1913 – 2000

[Sung to tune of Good King Wenceslas 'Tempus adest floridum']

Christ was born in Bethlehem
Came this world to enter,
Born on earth to rescue men
In a northern winter.
Here in our Southern Land
Still we tell the story.
Here in adoration stand
Giving God the glory.
 Here beneath a Southern Star
 Praise we God Almighty.

Christ in Bethlehem was born
On the plains of Judah,
In a manger rough and worn
And a stable ruder.
Here the tale is still portrayed
In a newer nation;
Still we praise the Child and Maid,
And our Sweet Salvation.
 Here beneath the Southern Star
 Praise we God Almighty.

Christ was born to conquer fear
On a day so distant;
But we feel His presence here
At this very instant.
Still we bring Him love and praise,
Still we shall adore Him;
Even as in other days
Shepherds bowed before Him.
 Here beneath the Southern Star
 Praise we God Almighty.

Here within our Southern Land
Over veld and fountain,
Kopje, kloof and desert sand,
Poort and plain and mountain,
Praise the mighty Son of God
For the gift He gave us:
Follow in the path He trod,
Who was born to save us.
 Here beneath the Southern Star
 Praise we God Almighty.



Answers to November Bible Quiz Natural Calamities

Regardless of where we live, all of us are subject to natural calamities of one sort or another. Match the person with the calamity they experienced.

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. A flood | f. Noah [Genesis 6:17] |
| 2. Drought | h. Jacob [Genesis 41:57] |
| 3. Tempest | g. Jonah [Jonah 1:4] |
| 4. Lightning | i. Moses [Exodus 19:16] |
| 5. Hail | a. Pharaoh [Exodus 9:28] |
| 6. Earthquake | e. Johnathan [1 Samuel 14:13-15] |
| 7. Whirlwind | b. Elijah [2 Kings 2:1,11] |
| 8. Black clouds & wind | d. Ahab [1 Kings 18:45] |
| 9. Thunder | c. Samuel [1 Samuel 7:10] |

December Bible Quiz Titles or Offices of Christ

What title or office of Christ follows the statement?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. "And being made perfect he became..." | a. Faithful witness |
| 2. "And from Jesus Christ who is the ..." | b. Morning Star |
| 3. "I am the root and the offspring of David and the ..." | c. The Lion of the tribe of Judah |
| 4. "Saying where is he that is born ..." | d. The source of eternal salvation |
| 5. "And one of the elders said unto me, weep not, behold ..." | e. King of the Jews |
| 6. "Looking unto Jesus ..." | f. A mighty saviour |
| 7. "To whom coming as unto ..." | g. Ruler in Israel |
| 8. "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son whom He hath appointed ..." | h. A living stone |
| 9. "Bethlehem ... out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ..." | i. Finisher of our faith |
| 10. "And he hath raised up an ..." | j. Heir of all things |

THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA

Son: "Dad, I think I'm old enough to know the truth. Is Santa Claus real?."

Dad: "I agree, as a teenager you are old enough. But before I tell you, I have a question for you. You see, "the truth" is a dangerous gift. Once you know something, you can't unknow it. Once you know the truth about Santa Claus, you will never again understand and relate to him as you do now. So, my question is: Are you sure you want to know?"

Brief pause...

Son: "Yes, I want to know"

Dad: "Ok, then I'll tell you: Yes, Santa Claus is real!"

Son: "Really?"

Dad: "Yes, really, but he's not an old man with a beard in a red suit. That's just what we tell children. You see, children are too young to understand the true nature of Santa Claus, so we explain it to them in a way that they can understand, and we keep Santa secret.

The truth about Santa Claus is that he's not a person at all; it's an idea.

Think of all those presents Santa gave you over the years. Your mother and I actually bought those ourselves. We watched you open them and pretended they were from Santa. It didn't bother us that you didn't thank us, it was giving the gifts that was our reward.

You see, Santa Claus is THE IDEA OF GIVING FOR THE SAKE OF GIVING, without expecting thanks or acknowledgement.

When I saw a woman collapse in the street last week I phoned for an ambulance. I knew that she'd never know that it was me that summoned the ambulance, I didn't act that way because I wanted thanks. Santa Claus is real when people do things like that."

Son: "Oh."

Dad: "So now that you know, you too are part of the Santa secret. You have to be Santa Claus too from now on. That means you can never tell your young sister the secret; and you will now have to help us select Santa presents for her.

But most important, to keep Santa real you must now look for opportunities to help people for the sake of giving and without expecting thanks. You must also remember that the idea that we call Santa should not be confined to Christmas. Helping others for no reason other than giving of yourself should become part of your adult life."

Son: "Thanks, Dad. Now I know, Santa is an idea, even an ideal idea. Santa is real."

Two Christmas Poems By Steve Turner

Christmas is Really for the Children

Christmas is really
for the children.
Especially for children
who like animals, stables,
stars and babies wrapped
in swaddling clothes.
Then there are wise men,
kings in fine robes,
humble shepherds and a
hint of rich perfume.

Easter is not really
for the children
unless accompanied by
a cream filled egg.
It has whips, blood, nails,
a spear and allegations
of body snatching.

It involves politics, God
and the sins of the world.
It is not good for people
of a nervous disposition.
They would do better to
think on rabbits, chickens
and the first snowdrop
of spring.

Or they'd do better to
wait for a re-run of
Christmas without asking
too many questions about
what Jesus did when he grew up
or whether there's any connection.

If Jesus Was Born Today

If Jesus was born today
it would be in a downtown motel
marked by a helicopter's flashing bulb.
A traffic warden, working late,
would be the first upon the scene.
Later, at the expense of a TV network,
an eminent sociologist,
the host of a chat show,
and a controversial author,
would arrive with their good wishes
-the whole occasion to be filmed as part of the
'Is This The Son Of God?' one hour special.
Childhood would be a blur of photographs and
speculation
dwindling by his late teens into
'Where Is He Now?' features in Sunday
magazines.

If Jesus was thirty today
they wouldn't really care about the public
ministry,
they'd be too busy investigating His finances
and trying to prove He had Church or Mafia
connections.

The miracles would be explained by
an eminent and controversial magician,
His claims to be God's Son recognised as
excellent examples of Spoken English
and immediately incorporated into
the O-Level syllabus,
His sinless perfection considered by moral
philosophers
as, OK, but a bit repressive.

If Jesus was thirty-one today
He'd be the fly in everyone's ointment-
the sort of controversial person who
stands no chance of eminence.
Communists would expel Him, capitalists
would exploit Him or have Him
smeared by people who know a thing or two
about God.

Doctors would accuse Him of quackery,
soldiers would accuse Him of cowardice,
theologians would take Him aside and try
to persuade Him of His non-existence.

If Jesus was thirty-two today we'd have to
end it all. Heretic, fundamentalist, literalist,
puritan, pacifist, non-conformist, we'd take Him
away and quietly end the argument.
But the argument would rumble in the ground
at the end of three days and would break out
and walk around as though death was some bug,
saying 'I am the resurrection and the life...
No man cometh to the Father but by me'.
While the magicians researched new
explanations
and the semanticists wondered exactly what
He meant by 'I' and 'No man' there would be
those
who stand around amused, asking for something
called proof.

Answers to December Bible Quiz Titles or Offices of Christ

What title or office of Christ follows the statement?

1. "And being made perfect he became...
d. The source of eternal salvation [Heb 5:9]
2. "And from Jesus Christ who is the ...
a. Faithful witness [Rev. 1:5]
3. "I am the root and the offspring of David
and the ...
b. Morning Star [Rev. 22:16]
4. "Saying where is He that is born ...
e. King of the Jews [Matt. 2:2]
5. "And one of the elders said unto me,
weep not, behold ...
c. The Lion of the tribe of Judah [Rev. 5:5]
6. "Looking unto Jesus ...
i. Finisher of our faith [Heb. 12:2]
7. "To whom coming as unto ...
h. A living stone [1Peter 2:4]
8. "Hath in these last days spoken unto us
by His Son whom He hath appointed ...
j. Heir of all things [Heb. 1:2]
9. "Bethlehem ... out of thee shall he come
forth unto me that is to be ...
g. Ruler in Israel [Micah 5:2]
10. "And he hath raised up an ...
f. A mighty saviour {Luke 1:69}

Feast of Title and Farewell to Cheryl Bird

Sunday 21st November 2021 proved to be a blessed festive day. On a beautiful sunny early summer day fifty-four members of the parish got together to celebrate the Festival of Christ the King, and as this is the name that was given to our parish when it was founded it is regarded as our parish's 'birthday'. To celebrate our Feast of Title Cheryl graciously accepted an invitation to be our celebrant and preacher. And as Covid-19 regulations had closed all churches at the time of her retirement as our rector, the occasion was fitting to pay tribute to her eight years as our pastor and friend and to wish her well in her future ministry.

We gathered together for an outdoor service under the trees at the entrance to the church. For the first time since 'lockdown' we exceeded 30 people attending a service, sang hymns (while wearing masks) and afterwards enjoyed a time of outdoor fellowship while consuming pre-packed snacks and small fruit-juice cartons.



1. Linda leads worship. 2. Cheryl & Isaias 3. Cheryl & her sister Lynn 4. Cheryl & Glynis 5. Cheryl 6. Cheryl & Madison Welman

As this would be Cheryl's last official interaction with the parish, she used the theme 'Last Words' to reflect on her ministry at Christ the King and to acknowledge the role that parishioners had played in her growth in faith and Christian witness. Each of the lay ministers participated in the service, Linda led the worship, Cynthia and Gill read lessons, Derek led prayers related to our Feast of Title, Madison Welman said a pray on behalf of the Sunday School, Richard said 'A prayer for special people' to link and acknowledge the special people of the parish and Cheryl's special ministry. Eastric led prayer for Cheryl, giving thanks for her ministry and asking blessing on her future activities.

The churchwardens, Charles and Peter-Jon presented Cheryl with a certificate of appreciation and a growing orchid in full flower and expressed their appreciation of her past role in parish life. The Brown sisters, Benita, Patty, Marlene and Davilyn arranged and distributed the refreshments that had been so capably organised by Joan Welby-Solomon.

This joyous occasion proved to be a reminder to us all of the benefits of communal worship and the value of times of Christian fellowship; of the added dimension that singing hymns brings to worship; and of the necessity to remain faithful despite the strictures placed on communal worship as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to the return to former patterns of communal worship as the pandemic abates due to inoculations and increased resistance to infection by those recovered from the illness.

Brief Summary: Cape Town Diocesan Synod 2021

This was a most unusual synod! It convened on the 22nd of July for the opening Eucharist, the Archbishop's charge (address) and preliminary business, which were conducted virtually due to the Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings. After the preliminaries synod was immediately adjourned to a future date to be decided by the archbishop. It reconvened on 26th November in a mixed format of gatherings of less than fifty people in six 'sacred hubs' that were connected virtually to each other as well as to two further sacred hubs, one at Bishops Court from where the archbishop presided, and another at the diocesan headquarters at Braehead House where synod's secretarial and administrative staff were centred.

After delegate registration procedures, Morning Prayer and Bible studies, synod resumed and continued deliberations throughout the day. After Evening Prayer it adjourned for the night. The same format was followed on Saturday 27th.

Amongst the items debated were proposals of a formal nature, such as amendment of the Acts of the Diocese to remove reference to paying accounts via cheque; and giving archdeaconry councils the function of promoting inter-parish cooperation and sharing of their respective strengths and resources. Proposed changes to the Canons (church law) dealt with the relevance of parish boundaries in a Southern African context, and youth representation on parish councils. Motions that did not require changes to the Acts or Canons were mainly requests for greater diocesan attention to be given to equal representation of men and women in all diocesan ministries (not only in ordained clergy); for licencing of a chaplain to promote men's ministry; requests to establish diocesan teams to advise parishes on property maintenance, and on adoption of digital media to enhance virtual worship. There were also motions for parishes to give greater attention to water, to the effect of gang violence on parishioners, and to remuneration of parish youth coordinators, and to develop a formal and legally recognised document that pastoral changes can use to satisfy requests to justify their authority to conduct day-to-day business and serve as proof of parish identity, such as required

when a parish purchases a SIM card for a mobile phone or a TV licence. A motion requesting the Bishop of Table Bay to explore the desirability of twinning parishes within the diocese, so as to promote the sharing of resources and fostering mutual interdependence was also adopted.

Voting on the various motions, as well as for election of people to serve on various diocesan committees and boards, was conducted electronically through a system that allowed the disbursed delegates to vote individually using electronic devices, mobile phones, tablets, and computers, linked via the internet. On Saturday afternoon, following announcement of election results, adoption of the minutes, and the concluding evening prayer, synod 2021 was dissolved.

CHRISTUS REX.

This magazine is distributed via email to all parishioners and friends who have requested copies. Contributions to the magazine are invited and will be welcomed. Please email these to Richard.fuggle@gmail.com. Please advise Richard should you no longer wish to have this emagazine emailed to you.

The format and frequency of **CHRISTUS REX** will be changing in 2022. There will be Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring issues. These will be formatted to make printed copies 'clean' and easy to read.
