

# Christmas Day

December 25, 2011

"The true light that gives light to every man was  
coming into the world."

-John 1:9



*From the fullness of his GRACE we have all received one blessing after another.*

*John 1:16*

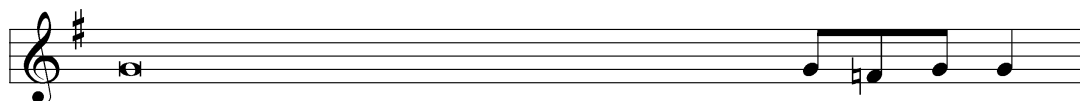
## DIVINE SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

## WELCOME

## HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful  
*Christian Worship #55*

## STAND



M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C: A - men.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.



Lord, have mer - cy on us.

C: I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.



Christ, have mer - cy on us.

C: But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray; Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### Let All Together Praise Our God

### Christian Worship #41



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his high - est  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an in - fant  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's form to  
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our flesh and  
5 He serves that I a lord may be A great ex - change in -  
6 For us he op - ens wide the door Of par - a - dise to -



throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And give us his own  
small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies in a hum - ble  
take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who heav'n and earth did  
blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His maj - es - ty as  
deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To help me in my  
day. The an - gel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we



Son, And gives us his own Son.  
stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
need? To help me in my need?  
pay, To God our thanks we pay.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**BE SEATED**

## MEN'S CHOIR

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words & Music by Marty Parks

O come, all ye faithful, triumphant with joy, Come see in the manger a dear baby boy;  
Born in a stable in Bethlehem town, The Son of the Highest come down!  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, exultantly sing, And herald the news of the birth of the King;  
Glory to God for His wonderful plan; His presence on earth as a man!  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Jesus, we welcome Your coming to earth, With glad adoration we honor Your birth;  
Word of the Father, now with us to dwell, Our promised Emmanuel!  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their

own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

### PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 98

#### Refrain



#### Psalm Tone



**M:** Sing to the LORD a / new song,\*  
**C:** for he has done mar- / velous things.

**M:** The LORD has made his sal- / vation known\*  
**C:** and revealed his righteousness to the / nations.

**M:** He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to  
the house of / Israel;\*  
**C:** all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation /  
of our God.

#### Refrain

**M:** Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth,\*  
**C:** burst into jubilant song with / music;

**M:** make music to the LORD / with the harp,\*  
**C:** with the harp and the sound of / singing.

**M:** Shout for joy before the / LORD, the King.\*  
**C:** He will judge the world in righteousness and the  
peoples with / equity.

**All:** Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\*  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

#### Refrain

## SECOND LESSON

## Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I

have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

## WOMEN'S CHOIR

## You Are Lord Over All

*Words & Music by Kirk and Deby Dearman*

You are Messiah, the Savior, Redeemer, born of a virgin in Bethlehem's stall.  
A humble Servant, exalted forever; You reign as a King over all.  
Hallelujah, You are King. Hallelujah, You are Lord over all.

You were forsaken, despised and rejected, a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief.  
Dying for our sin, now risen in glory; you are salvation to all who believe.  
Hallelujah, You are King. Hallelujah, You are Lord over all.

You shall reign forever and ever, King of Kings and Lord of Lords;  
At your feet all nations shall worship; Jesus, Lord over all.  
Heaven rejoices as we join together lifting our voices in praise to Your name.  
Yours is the power and glory forever, to endless ages Your kingdom shall reign.  
Hallelujah, You are King. Hallelujah, You are Lord over all.

## STAND

## GOSPEL

## John 1:1-14

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the

world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*BE SEATED*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

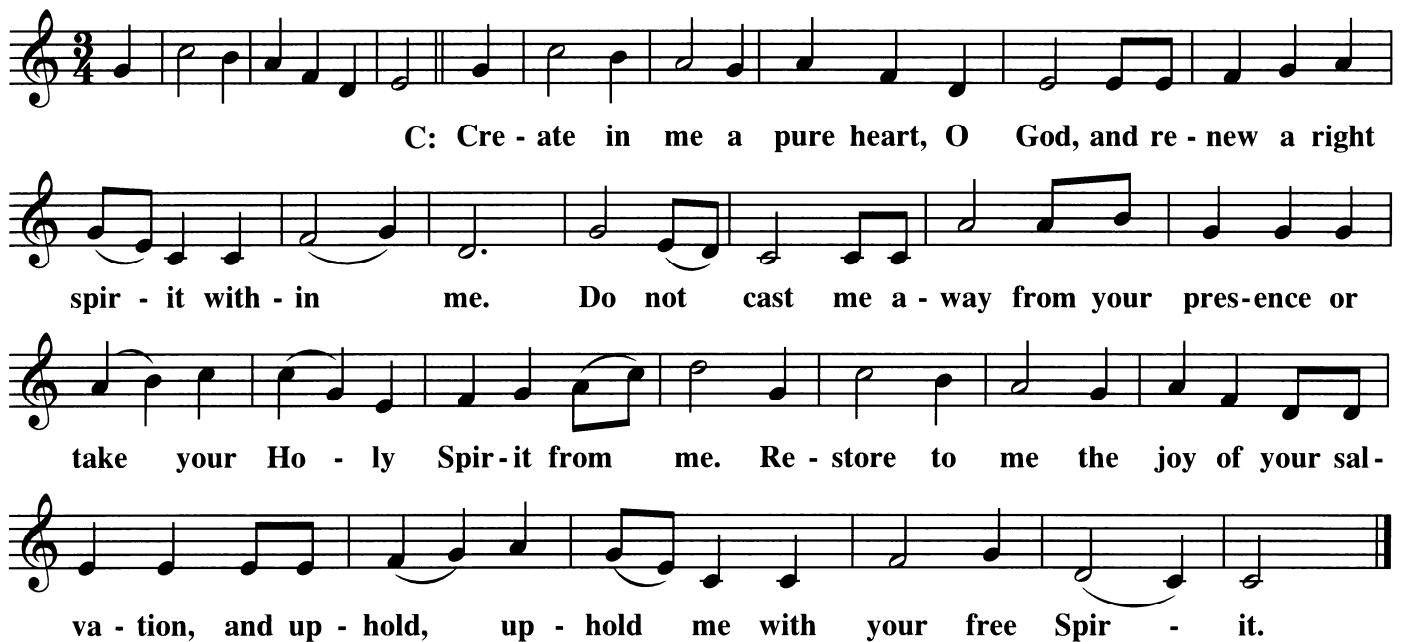
Of the Father's Love Begotten  
*Christian Worship #35*

## SERMON

John 1:1-14  
The True Light was Coming into the World

*STAND*

*After the sermon, please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:*



C: Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres-ence or  
take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal -  
va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*BE SEATED*

**OFFERING**     *Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.*

*Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**Journey of the Kings**  
*By Sharon Rogers*  
*Played by the Handbells*

**STAND**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C:** **To us a child is born! To us a Son is given.**

**M:** What a great mystery of our faith is this: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C:** **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

**M:** In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C:** **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.

*Silent Prayer.*

**M:** As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**BE SEATED**

**HYMN**

**A Great and Mighty Wonder**  
*Christian Worship #36*

**STAND**

**M:** Dear Lord, we rejoice that you have allowed us again to meditate upon and to celebrate the joyous message of Christmas. Grant that our attention to the Christ Child may be more than a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, let the message of the salvation which he came to bring find ready acceptance in our hearts and in the hearts of others for the eternal benefit of our souls, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

**BE SEATED**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING SONG**

**Sing Joy to the World**  
*Words and Music by Jay Althouse*  
*Please join in singing the words of “Joy to the World” as indicated on page 8.*

**POSTLUDE**

**Gabriel’s Message**  
*Basque Traditional*

**THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

Worship Leader..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke  
Accompanist ..... Teri Guenther  
Handbell and Choir Director..... Teri Guenther  
Brass Ensemble Director..... Missy Wiechmann  
Trumpets ..... Pastor Ron Koehler, Tyler Koehler  
Saxophone..... Jeremy Snavelly  
Sound & Recording Tech..... Jeff Weinstein

**Have a Blessed Christmas!**

Thank you for joining us for worship this Christmas Day. We hope and pray that the joy of this day will be yours throughout the season, in the New Year, and throughout your life. If you are a guest with us today and do not have a church home, we would consider it a special privilege to share God’s Word with you on a regular basis. Please take a guest packet from the table near the exit to learn more about Grace and the ministries God has allowed us to undertake.

**Please join us for a New Year’s Eve Worship Service on Saturday, December 31 at 7:00 PM.**

We will follow our regular Sunday morning worship schedule on Sunday, January 1. Join us for worship at 7:45 or 10:00 AM, and in between for Bible study (9:00) and Children’s Sunday School (8:45).



# SING JOY TO THE WORLD

Choir: Long ago in Bethlehem Jesus Christ was born. Child of Mary, Son of God came on a blessed morn.  
 Long ago in Bethlehem angels came to sing, honoring the newborn babe. Hear their voices ring.  
 Sing joy to the world, let earth receive her King. Sing joy to the world, all heaven and nature sing.  
 Sing joy to the world! Tiny King in Bethlehem of a humble birth. Praise his name forevermore all throughout the earth.  
 Sing joy to the world, let earth receive her King. Sing joy to the world, all heaven and nature sing.

Choir 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re ceive her  
 All 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav ior reigns! Let all their songs em  
 All 3 No more let sins and sor rows grow Nor thorns in fest the  
 All 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na tions

King! Let ev 'ry heart pre pare him room and  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re  
 grounds He comes to make His bless ings flow Far  
 prove. The glo ries of His right eous ness And

heav'n and na ture sing, and heav'n and na ture sing and  
 peat the sound ing joy, Re peat the sound ing joy, Re  
 as the curse is found Far as the curse is found. Far  
 won ders of His love, And won ders of His love, And

and heav'n and na ture sing, and heav'n and na ture  
 re peat the sound ing joy! Re peat the sound ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won ders of His love, and won ders of His

heav'n and heav'n and na ture sing!  
 peat re peat the sound ing joy!  
 as Far as the curse is found!  
 won ders won ders of his love!

sing, and heav'n and na ture sing!  
 joy re peat the sound ing joy!  
 found far as the curse is found!  
 love and won ders of His love!

Choir: Sing joy to the world!



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**Counselor:**

Cinda Drescher  
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## Welcome to Grace!

**Our mission at Grace** is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

**Altar flowers** have been given by the Grorud family to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gus and Dorothy Lehet.

### New 2012 Envelope System!

Instead of receiving a box of envelopes for 2012, each household will have their envelopes mailed to their home each month. You should be receiving your January 2012 envelopes any day now. More information about this can be found in your Stewardship Packet, which you can pick up in the church courtyard today. There is one for every confirmed member of Grace. If you are not a member of Grace and would like to receive offering envelopes please contact Cora in the church office at 623-6633.

### Thrivent members take note!

Our representatives from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be with us at Grace on Sunday, January 8 to explain the Thrivent Choice program, which allows you to choose where monies given to you by Thrivent ought to go. A large amount of money has gone undesignated by Grace members, so please plan to attend this brief presentation in the Fellowship Hall after the 10 AM service. Thrivent will also be hosting the fellowship hour that day.

### Women of Grace Epiphany Dinner Out—January 6

The Women of Grace will be having an Epiphany Dinner Out at the Claim Jumper (3761 E. Broadway), Friday, January 6 at 6:00 PM. This will be a fun night of food and women's fellowship. We intend to invite the new women from Grace-Vail as well. **Please RSVP to Lois Thornton (323-8772) or Sue Sargent (647-3049) by January 1 if you plan to attend.** You may also RSVP to Cora in the church office at 623-6633.

### Christian Fellowship Group White Elephant Bingo Party

Christian Fellowship Group will meet on Saturday, January 14, at noon in the Fellowship hall for a Pot Luck White Elephant Bingo party. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to pass and a cleverly wrapped or disguised "White Elephant." We are always looking for new members. Come, give us a try! *The Christian Fellowship Group provides people 55 and older with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others on a very informal basis.*

## This Week's Schedule (12/25/11 - 1/1/12)

### Today CHRISTMAS DAY

-Christmas Day Worship ..... 10:00a

### Monday-Friday

-**NO** Weekly Bible Classes, Choir, or Instrumental Practices

### Saturday

-**New Year's Eve Worship** (with communion) ..... 7:00p

### Sunday

-Worship Services/Communion ..... 7:45 & 10:00a

-Children's Sunday School ..... 8:45a

-Youth Confirmation Class ..... 8:45a

-Adult Bible Classes:

• *The Life of Christ: The Temptation of Jesus* (F. Hall) .... 9:00a

• *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office) .... 9:00a

-Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* ..... 9:00a

-Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship.....

# **"Chrismons"**

## **Christ-Monograms**

*Chrismons are symbols that proclaim Jesus' name and his works of salvation for us. Here are explanations for the Chrismons you see on our Christmas trees.*



THE ANCHOR CROSS represents our certain hope of salvation anchored in Christ.



THE BUDDED CROSS with its trefoil ends emphasizes the Trinity.



THE CELTIC CROSS has a circle in the middle symbolizing eternity. Because it has ancient ties to Christians in Ireland, Iona and Scotland, it is also called the Irish or Iona Cross.



THE CROSS WITH ORB symbolizes the world united under Christ, as the Lord cares for heaven and earth.



THE GREEK CROSS has four arms of equal length. Early Greek artists used this cross.



IHS is the acrostic of the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek (**Ιησους**). Various meanings have been attached to each letter. The horizontal line that forms the cross is the sign for an abbreviation.



THE IOTA CROSS is the first letter of "Jesus" in Greek (**I=IOTA**) combined with the first letter of "Christ" in Greek (**X=CHI**).



THE JERUSALEM CROSS (also known as the CRUSADER'S CROSS) represents the city of peace. The 5 crosses represent the 5 wounds of our Lord. The 4 smaller crosses are also said to represent the spread of the gospel to the 4 corners of the earth.



THE MALTESE CROSS is comprised of 4 arms shaped like spear-heads. Each points to the center, with the broad end having 2 points. The 8 points in all represent the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This is the emblem of John the Baptist. The cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John, who were driven from Rhodes to the island of Malta by the Turks. Malta is the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked.



THE ROMAN CROSS consists of the Latin Cross and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (**Α**) and omega (**Ω**) symbolizing Jesus as the Eternal One: the 'First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.' Though he died on the cross, he reigns in glory forever.



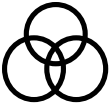
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior's birth.



THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter **Τ** (tau), depicts the type of cross Moses is believed to have raised in the desert with the serpent on it. It is also the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. Therefore this is the cross of penitence and prophecy.



CHALICE AND WAFER represent the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



THREE INTERLACING CIRCLES represent the three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity, yet just one God.



THE DESCENDING DOVE symbolizes the Holy Spirit, remembering the baptism of Jesus when he descended in the form of a dove.



THE TABLET OF STONE is a symbol of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.



THE BUTTERFLY brings to mind our Lord's resurrection from the dead and reminds us that all believers in Christ will also rise to eternal life. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (**A**) and omega (**Ω**) are sometimes added to signify the eternal life enjoyed by those who die in the Lord.



THE CROSS CROWN is a symbol of the Kingship of our Lord, reminding us that he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It also reminds us of the crown of life given to believers for their lives of faith.



THE CHI-RHO is a monogram consisting of the first two Greek letters of 'Christ', **X** and **P**.



THE FISH is the most ancient symbol of Christ. Christians drew the image of the fish to identify each other in times of persecution. The Greek word for fish is **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **I**=Jesus **X**=Christ **Θ**=God's **Υ**=Son **Σ**=Savior.



THE 5-POINTED STAR/EPIPHANY STAR represents the star of Bethlehem and is shaped roughly like a human being representing Christ's incarnation.



THE 6-POINTED STAR/CREATOR'S STAR/STAR OF DAVID symbolizes creation. Each point refers to a day of God's creating work.



THE TREFOIL AND TRIANGLE is a symbol of the Holy Trinity showing both the unity of the Godhead as well as the diversity of the Persons.

*May these Christian symbols enrich your worship and fill your Christmas celebration with even more meaning and joy!*