

Christmas Traditions

Much of our joy with the season of Christmas, involves reliving the memories of Christmases' past. Not simply remembering these events but keeping them alive through Christmas traditions. Pulling out the old ornaments, Grandma's Christmas tree skirt, the same angel on top of the tree, the old familiar carols which revive personal memories the words don't begin to suggest.

Our celebration of the Christ in Christmas may come off much the same. The manger scene retelling the story of Jesus' birth, the choir cantata and children's Christmas play that proclaim the incarnation and bring the old story to life. A candle lit worship service on Christmas eve that marks the anniversary of Jesus' birth over 2000 years ago. All these are our ways of keeping the old story alive, and helping us feel as if we are there in person, all these years later.

It might be important for us to remind ourselves that we are not actually preparing for baby Jesus' birth. That already happened ages ago, and all the Christmas pageants in the world do not bring it about again. Perhaps the purpose of having Christmas at all, is to remind us that Christ has come into the world, and that those who are able to welcome him into their lives are given power to become God's children.

“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13 NRSV

Pastor David