



## Family Notes for Advent 4 December 20, 2009

*Christmas is almost here! Here are some more ways to bring the joy of Jesus' birth into your home this season.*

### ***A table grace for the Christmas season:***

*Lord Jesus, We join together these Christmas days  
With shepherds and angels to give You praise.  
Be present with us, as at the stable,  
And bless our sharing around this table. Amen.*

### ***Rituals and Traditions:***

*Before you rush to open your Christmas gifts this year, pause to pray and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for the gift of one another. Here is a prayer you might use.*

***Leader:*** *We gather together today as a family to celebrate the gift of Jesus to our world and to our family. As God has loved us by giving us Jesus, we share His love with one another by giving and receiving gifts. Let us pray:*

***All:*** *Lord God, thank you for Jesus. As we gather in His name, may our Christmas sharing draw us closer to You and to each other. Fill us with your joy and peace. Amen.*

*In giving gifts to one another, you might say:*

***As a sign of God's gift of Jesus to me, I give you this gift with love.***

***Service:*** *Be on the lookout for someone who may be without friends or family at this festive time, and invite them to join you for a meal this week. Students, single adults, recent immigrants, and elderly persons in our communities can feel particularly lonely at Christmastime.*

### ***This Week's Scripture Verse to Share:***

***"To you is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."***

**Luke 2:11**

***God bless you and your family this week  
as you prepare for Christmas!***