

# Santa and Christ

Hymns from "Christian Christmas Carols."

## Greeting and Opening Prayer

### Hymns of Worship

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## Christmas According to John (John 1:1-14 NKJV)

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
- 8 *[John]* was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 He was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
- 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
- 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
- 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

I'm sure each of us were told all about Santa Claus when we were young. He was a kind, happy man who rewarded children for being good little boys and girls with the gifts of their wildest dreams. On the other hand, Santa gave bad children a lump of coal for Christmas. Many of us probably believed the fairy tales about Mr. Cringle: his toy-making elves, his flying reindeer, his bag of endless gifts, his worldwide journey to every child's home in one night, his all seeing eye throughout the year and his list of all the children, the good and the bad. Maybe your parents were like so many who went to great lengths to help you believe in the magic of Chris Cringle. They put out the milk and cookies and hung the stockings, and wrapped the big gifts on Christmas eve after the children went to bed. Yes, many of us probably **believed** but all of us now **know** it was foolish to believe; it was all just a fable. We now know it would be silly to trust in such a childish dream.

All entwined in the dreams and the wishes and the mystique of Santa was another celebrated story full of wonder and "magic." It was a drama just as fantastic, no, even more unbelievable than ole Saint Nick. It was a story about an archangel sent from heaven to announce to a young virgin girl that she was going to have a baby. This awesome story was about a host of flying angels singing in the night-air to lonely shepherds. There was a great star moving in the sky to guide rich kings to the poor baby's crib of hay where they laid before him luxurious gifts

and gold. This young child, born to a little unmarried maiden, was the only begotten Son of Father God. And this homeless baby boy would one day be the Savior of the world, bringing peace on earth and goodwill to men.

Yes, right along with Santa, we believed this saga played out so laboriously in Christmas plays and pageants in churches all over town. Everybody was into the Christmas Story...and everybody was into Santa.

The huge question each of us must ask ourselves is this: "Did we throw out the majesty and the reality of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God along with Santa when we grew up?" Yes, we still sing the carols and light the candles and reminisce over childhood memories. But have we lost the thrill? Have we lost sight of the glory? Have we gotten calloused to the old, old story of such amazing grace that God would give His only begotten Son to take our punishment for sin that we might confidently grasp the hope of eternal bliss with Him in Heaven? As we gaze afresh and anew this Christmas Season into the gleaming manger scene, may God Almighty grant that each of us be given a child's vision of the reality of a Savior nailed upon the cross for us.

**(John 1:11-14 NKJV)**

**11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.  
12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:  
13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.  
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 3:16-18

**16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.  
18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

**Closing Hymn**

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**Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Recessional**

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