

...and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:11 NIV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Service of
Worship & Communion

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Morning Worship Live Stream - 10:40am

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

Midweek Online Service (Wednesday)

7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided

 **WhatsApp 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707**

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www.bereanbarbados.org

The Modern Practice of Decorated Christmas Trees

As far as the modern practice of cutting evergreen trees, bringing them into the home and decorating them for Christmas, that can (arguably) be traced back to Germany in the 16th Century (although Estonia and Latvia claim that they were the first country to decorate a Christmas tree). There is even an unsubstantiated tradition that Martin Luther while walking in the forest, saw moonlight (or starlight) coming through the tree branches and was dazzled by the beauty of the scene. Luther went out and cut down a fir tree and brought it into his house. He then decorated it with candles to simulate the moonlight effect for his family. Whether that particular legend is true or not, there can be no doubt that Luther furthered the popularization of Christmas celebrations in Germany, including writing his first Christmas Carol in 1524 (later turned into a cantata by J.S. Bach)

The decoration of Christmas trees in areas outside of continental Europe can be traced to Queen Victoria and her husband Albert's Christmas tree, which was decorated, adorned with presents, and documented in 1846 by the Illustrated London News. After seeing this sketch (and probably witnessed by a few nobles) word spread of the Royal family's tree and soon many in England were putting decorated trees into their homes.

Queen Victoria's popularity in English-speaking countries soon led to many other countries adopting the Christmas tree custom. In America, President Benjamin Harrison (1889–93) was the first president to have a Christmas tree in the White House in 1889, and this greatly increased its popularity in the United States.

Decorations for the Christmas tree have greatly changed over the years, from nuts, berries, fruits, candles, and gingerbread, to the now more-popular tinsel, electric lights, and non-edible ornaments. But in each of these, traditional focus has been on how these decorations were regarded as symbols of Christianity.

Since Christmas is celebrated in many countries, local traditions varied and still do. In a pre-industrial agrarian culture, the nuts, berries, and fruits were reminders of the providential gifts of God in the harvest (Psalm 136:25). The candles for either the Christmas tree or the Advent wreath represented Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12), or the stars that he created (Genesis 1:16).

The Gingerbread men represented either God's creation of mankind (Genesis 1:27) or Jesus as the bread of life (John 6:35), with the sweetness of the cookie representing the sweetness of redemption. Modern decorations such as electric lights carry over the same symbolism as the candles, while ornaments, being traditionally spherical represented God who has no beginning or end.

Most are aware that stars or angels placed at the top of the tree represent the star of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:2) or the angel who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds (Luke 2:8-12). And the presents under the tree represent the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the wise men gave to Jesus (Matthew 2:11).

The Substance Casting the Shadow

But all of these things are merely symbolic and are meant to point people to Jesus Christ and his birth, which we honor at this time of year. And even as we celebrate the Incarnation, we are reminded that Jesus came to earth, took on flesh and came with a specific purpose—not to do his own will, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). Whether we choose to celebrate Christmas or not is, as we have mentioned, a matter of Christian liberty.

But all Christians are commanded to remember Christ and his sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 11:24-26) and to confess Christ's incarnation (1 John 4:2), because Jesus needed to become a man in order to provide salvation to mankind and to defeat death for us (1 Corinthians 15:21-26, Hebrews 2:9, 2:14-15).

During this Christmas season, whether you have a Christmas tree in your home or not, reflect upon Calvary's tree (Acts 13:29), where Jesus willingly went to bear our sins so that we might live to righteousness (1 Peter 2:24). And if you are not a Christian, please consider that the presents under the Christmas tree are not only to remind us of the gifts the wise men gave but, even more so, to remind everyone that the free gift of salvation is available to all, so that whoever believes in Christ Jesus should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Read the entire article complete with references online.

<https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/do-christmas-trees-have-pagan-roots/>

Order of Service

December 6, 2020, 10:40 a.m.

...Jesus Christ is Lord... Phil 2:11

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Call to Worship | 9. Prayer |
| 2. Announcements | 10. Hymn 192 - One Day |
| 3. Meditation & Invocation | 11. Sermon - Elder Kevin Browne |
| 4. Hymn 114 - The First Noel | 12. Hymn 125 - A Thousand Years have... |
| 5. Hymn 118 - What Child is This? | 13. Distribution of Elements |
| 6. Scripture - Phil 2: 1 - 11 | 14. Song - Behold Our God |
| 7. Hymn 107 - Angels We have Heard... | 15. Benediction |
| 8. Hymn 103 - O Come to my Heart | |

ITEMS FOR PRAYER

- God sending Jesus the Messiah to save and redeem us from sin.
- Give God thanks for His grace and continual goodness.
- Continue to pray for our sick members, friends and relatives.
- Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of Pastor Paul Garnes and his family.
- For the care of our elderly, shut-ins, the bereaved.
- For a cure for the Corona virus.
- For the Berean Church families in The DR Congo as they combat Covid-19 and related challenges.
- For the friends of Berean - The Gilmores, Hulls, Taylors, Haecks, Moores, Portio.
- For our unemployed members to find meaningful employment.
- For the Gideons, ISIVCF & CEF ministries.
- For the economic recovery of our country Barbados.
- For the peace of Jerusalem.

December Birthdays

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|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3rd - Julia Lowe | 16th - Eileen Yarde | 25th - Stephen Peniston |
| 4th - Joan Aimey | 20th - Maureen Branch | 27th - Leandre Brathwaite |
| 11th - Florence Gibbs | 21st - Winston Clarke | 27th - Ricardo Licorish |
| - Chrystonele Harewood | - Carol Maycock | 28th - Hermes Nurse |
| 14th - Brigitte James | 24th - Maureen Burnett | 29th - Dolores Codrington |

Anniversaries

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7th - Bernadette & Clarence Holder | 31st - Beverley & Jefferson Wason |
| 22nd - Charmaine & Darwin Brathwaite | |