

The Spiritual Life Development Department  
presents

# Christmas Prayer Walk

A Group Worship Experience



# CHRISTMAS PRAYER WALK

A group worship experience

This prayer walk should not be experienced alone. Since Christmas is often celebrated with family and friends, this prayer walk is best experienced with family members, with a partner or small group. It is designed so that all ages can participate (adults may need to assist younger children when necessary).

The stations are based on three important aspects of Christmas:

- The presence of Christ
- Expressing love and gratitude
- Generosity of spirit and soul

Each station asks the participants to engage in simple activities that will give these aspects deeper meaning as the group shares together.

This prayer walk can be used as an alternative worship service or as a Christmas Eve service.

## Introduction

(Meet together and sing Christmas carols, share scripture, and share the aim of this worship experience.)

### Aim:

At Christmas time we share our love and gratitude with family and friends. We gather together to enjoy food, fellowship and exchange gifts. This prayer walk encourages us to fellowship with those near and dear to us and to give us the opportunity to develop deeper love and gratitude with each other and Christ.

The prayer walk you are about to experience will help you, in small groups (family/friends) sense the presence of Christ, share love and gratitude to those closest to you, and give strength to your soul.

## Here are your instructions:

- Gather with those you want to experience this prayer walk with. Use your discretion. This should be family members but friends can also be “adopted”. You can participate in this worship experience in a group as small as two, but if the group gets larger than 8 to 10 it may lose its focus and intimacy. (Use your discretion.)
- There is no chronological order to the stations; they can be visited in any order.
- When you arrive at a station read the instructions, take whatever supplies needed and move to an area to participate away from the station table to give others the opportunity to engage in the activity.
- When you have completed a station as a group, pray together and move to another station.
- When you have completed all of the stations, return to this united spot for a time of closing worship. When you enter, please take a seat and wait quietly until everyone is finished and taken a seat (You may want to provide music for the singing of Christmas carols until everyone finishes. You may want to consider giving young children paper puzzles to work on until the closing service begins.)

Your closing service can include a Christmas carol and an overview of the prayer walk experience. You may want to participate in a candle lighting service or whatever is traditional for your faith community.

# Set up instructions for the 3 stations are below

## Station 1 – PRESENCE

Decorate the station table as desired. Use the instructions provided and display them on the table. Provide marker pens and a basket filled with wooden star ornaments (see link in [SAConnects](#) post). This table should be placed near a Christmas tree or have a table-tree. Once members of the group have shared and added their names to the star, it should be placed on the tree.

## Station 2 – WORDS

Decorate the station table as desired. Use the instructions provided and display them on the table. Provide Christmas note paper or blank Christmas cards and envelopes in a basket with pens.

## Station 3 – GIFT

Decorate the station table as desired. Use the instructions provided and display them on the station table. Provide a supply of small boxes (see link in [SAConnects](#) post), wrapping paper, tape, ribbon, tags and pens. Also provide a large basket for placing the boxes in once decorated.



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## STATION 1 - PRESENCE



### Reflect together on the following:

God is always speaking to us. He speaks to us in many everyday occurrences like conversations we have with each other, through nature, life situations, and our reading – especially the scriptures.

A star in the night sky was an everyday occurrence, but to those who were anticipating the coming of Jesus knew it was a sign that the Son of God had finally arrived on earth and was now living among us.

### Have one person in your group read the following:

*“Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked people, “Where is the child who has been born to be the king of the Jews? We saw the star that shows he was born. We saw it rise in the sky in the east and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard about this, it upset him as well as everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod called a meeting of all the leading Jewish priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah would be born. They answered, “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea, just as the prophet wrote:*

*‘Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
you are important among the rulers of Judah.  
Yes, a ruler will come from you,  
and that ruler will lead Israel, my people.’”*

*Then Herod had a private meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. Then he sent them to Bethlehem. He said, “Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too.” After the wise men heard the king, they left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east, and they followed it. The star went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. 10 They were very happy and excited to see the star.*

*The wise men came to the house where the child was with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened the boxes of gifts they had brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country a different way.” Matthew 2:1-12 (CEV)*

### Action:

Take one star from the basket to be shared with the group. The star will be passed amongst the group. When the star is given to you, share a time recently when you felt God’s presence with you in an everyday happening.

Once everyone has shared, everyone sign his/her name on the star and place it on the Christmas tree.

### Prayer in unison:

Lord, I ask for a greater awareness of your presence in my life. Thank you. Amen

## STATION 2 - WORDS

### Reflect together on the following:

Words are containers of power. Words can encourage and strengthen or can hurt and wound. We will be sharing many gifts with those we appreciate and love this Christmas. There is no greater gift to give than words of love and appreciation that will bring reassurance and inspiration. These words can be the most valuable gift you can give.

### Have someone in your group read the following:

- *“A man has joy in giving an appropriate answer,  
And how good and delightful is a word spoken at the right moment—how good it is!”*  
Proverbs 15:23 (AMP)
- *“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”* 2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)
- *“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...”*  
Ephesians 3:16-18 (NIV)
- *“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight....”* Philippians 1:3-9 (NIV)

### Action:

Take the Christmas cards provided. Write a note of encouragement to someone the Lord has brought to mind. Place it in an envelope and either mail it or give it to the receiver as soon as you are able.

### Prayer in unison:

Lord, thank you for the people you have placed in my life. Help me to express my thanks to them and how they have enriched my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



## STATION 3 - GIFT

We exchange gifts at Christmas as a remembrance of God's giving the world the greatest Gift every known; the Baby Jesus. Every gift we buy, make, wrap and exchange perpetuates the symbol of God's love and grace.

In all your shopping, wrapping, tagging and delivering of gifts, have you seriously thought about what God wants from you this Christmas?

### Have someone in your group read the following:

- *"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."* Matthew 2:11
- *"His free gift is nothing like the scourge of the first man's sin. The judgment that fell because of one false step brought condemnation, but the free gift following countless offenses results in a favorable verdict—not guilty".* Romans 5:16 (VOICE)
- *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"* 2 Corinthians 9:15

### Action:

Have you considered what God wants for Christmas? What is it that you haven't given Him? More of your time...deeper affections...your thoughts...your obedience?

Take a box and wrap it and place a ribbon on it. Take a tag and write on it what you are giving to the Lord this Christmas. Place it in the basket.

### Prayer in unison:

Heavenly Father, I thank you for Your Gift of Jesus Christ as my Savior. Today I give you that which you want; more and more of me. Amen.

