

THE 12 SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS



By Felicia Mollohan

Evergreen Tree



An evergreen has a very appropriate name. It is ever green – always green. It does not become dormant in the winter as most other trees do. The color green represents new life and the needles of the evergreen always point up – heavenward. It symbolizes our everlasting life with Jesus Christ. We should be as the evergreen tree – always full of life never becoming dormant in our life with Christ as our arms are lifted heavenward.

"The bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven. He gives life to the world."
John 6:33

Cookies



Making cookies is a favorite pastime for most families during the Christmas season. Cookie cutters are used to turn ordinary cookie dough into edible masterpieces. God doesn't use any cookie cutters when He creates each one of us. He makes every one of us so special and unique that He would have to break the mold after just one use. He is the potter and we are His clay. He wants to mold us into His masterpieces. We only need to be moldable and willing to follow His lead.

"Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."
Jeremiah 18:6

Ornaments



Ornaments are used to decorate Christmas trees each and every year. People look for the perfect ones to fit on their tree. Our Christmas tree just wouldn't seem complete without our ornaments. Ornaments symbolize the blessings in our lives. Our lives just wouldn't be complete without God's blessings. Everything that we have is due to God loving us so much that He wants to shower us with His blessings. Just as ornaments are all different shapes and sizes, blessings are all different as well. God picks and chooses each blessing for us so that it will be just right. The next time you decorate your tree, and as you put up each ornament, think of a blessing that God has given you. I think you'll find that you'll run out of ornaments before you can run out of blessings!

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you."
Deuteronomy 16:17

Wreath



The wreath has its evergreen branches bent in a circle so that the ends touch, having no beginning or end just as there is no beginning or end of Jesus' eternal love for us. Just as the wreath looks the same throughout and seems to not change, so His Word will always be the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

"Sanctify them (set them apart for holy service to God) in the truth; your word is truth."
John 17:17



Bell

The bell rings out to guide lost sheep back to the fold, signifying that all are precious in the eyes of the Lord. Jesus is our shepherd and He laid down His life for us so that we may spend eternity with Him in heaven. He is calling us to follow Him through His Word. Are you going to listen?

*"If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?"
Matthew 18:12*

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
John 10:11*

Present

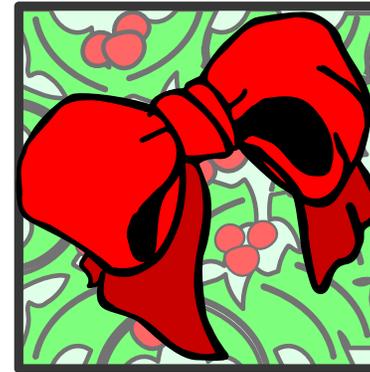


These days, the world has forgotten the reason for Christmas. Most people seem to think that getting presents is the greatest thing about Christmas. Other people seem to think that presents have nothing to do with Christmas. Well, they are both wrong. The wise men came to visit Jesus as a young child and gave Him presents. They gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. They offered him gold, as a king, paying him tribute; frankincense, as God, for they honored God with the smoke of incense; and myrrh, as a man that should die, for myrrh was used in embalming dead bodies.

These men...these wise men...saw this baby and knew that He is a king, is God and that He would die for the sins of the world. How can anyone, with the knowledge that we have now, not believe?

"The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh."
Matthew 2:11

Bows & Ribbon



Many people spend hours wrapping all of their presents during Christmas time. They use ribbons, garland and bows to make sure that their presents are as beautiful as possible.

What they don't realize is that the items that they use to complete the outside of the gift have more meaning than the actual gift inside. The bow ties our present with a beautiful ribbon, just as Jesus ties us as Christians together in His love. We may not be in the same family, but we are all in the family of God. Jesus is the ribbon that binds us together.

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
Colossians 3:14



Holly

We see holly as decorations during the Christmas season. But do we really understand what the holly stands for? The leaves represent the crown of thorns that were placed upon Jesus' head as He was being crucified. The berries symbolize the blood that He shed for us. He endured criticism, excruciating pain, and embarrassment...all for you and I. The next time you see a decoration with holly on it, remember what was done for you so that He could spend eternity with you. I know that I will.

*"and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
Matthew 27:29*

Candle



When a room is full of darkness, it is dark. But, if you light a single match in a dark room, the room is light. There may be more darkness, but the light overpowers it. We are that light. We can be the single light in a world of darkness. We must share our light with the world so that the light increases.

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house."
Matthew 5:14-15*

Angel



Imagine...you are a lowly shepherd, watching your sheep. This night seems no different than any other. Then all of a sudden an angel of the Lord is in the sky above you...telling you of the Savior's birth. You, a shepherd? Why did God send an angel to tell shepherds? Because the message that God had about the birth of Jesus was for all people! Not just for the rich, not just for the Jew...EVERYONE! God chose His #1 messenger to tell the lowest of people (in the world's eyes) of His Son's birth! God looks at the heart – not what the world looks at – thank goodness!

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:9-11



Candy Cane

The Candy Cane symbolizes multiple things. If you hold it upright...it looks like a shepherd's crook. The shepherds were one of the few people who were able to see the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. If you turn the candy cane upside down...it looks like a "J". Jesus starts with J. The colors of the candy cane are also symbolic. The red represents the blood that Jesus shed for us on the cross and the white represents the purity of Jesus. There are candy canes with three small red stripes running around it. These stripes symbolize the Trinity – God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Who knew that this delicious simple candy was so profoundly symbolic of our Lord Jesus Christ and His simple birth?

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21



The star is a heavenly sign of prophecy fulfilled ages ago, the shining hope of all mankind. The star led the wise men to find the baby Jesus. These wise men traveled many miles following a star in the sky. The star was their "guiding light" to the Savior. God was the wise men's travel agent, in sorts, leading them to the greatest destination known to man – the Savior. We now have His Word as our "guiding light" to lead us to be with Him in heaven. Are you going to follow Him?

"and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy."
Matthew 2:9b-10