



The Washington Flyer
December 25, 2025

“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 2:10–11

Merry Christmas!

In 1953, a small book was published containing a sermon by [Peter Marshall](#), a Scottish-American pastor who served as the U.S. Senate Chaplain from 1947 to 1949 when he passed away from a heart attack. After his death, his wife published one of his most famous sermons, titled [Let's Keep Christmas](#). Although published in 1953, the message rings true today, pointing to Christ as the true heart of Christmas. We offer you an excerpt of this book below and with it wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, filled with reminders of God's goodness and great gift to us!

Let's Keep Christmas by Peter Marshall

Changes are everywhere. Many institutions and customs that we once thought sacrosanct have gone by the board. Yet there are a few that abide, defying time and revolution.

The old message: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” is still the heart of Christmas. It can be nothing else. And this message can neither be changed—nor quite forgotten, although there are many things that tend to make us forget. . . .

There is no need to search for stories new and different. There is only one after all—and no modern author can improve it:

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore 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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” . . .

Let's not permit the crowds and the rush to crowd Christmas out of our hearts, for that is where it belongs. Christmas is not in the stores—but in the hearts of people.

Let's not give way to cynicism and mutter that “Christmas has become commercialized.” . . . Your Christmas is not commercialized, unless you have commercialized it.

Let's not succumb to the sophistication that complains: “Christmas belongs only to the children.” That shows that you have never understood Christmas at all, for the older you get, the more it means, if you know what it means. . . .

When Christmas doesn't make your heart swell up until it nearly bursts . . . and fill your eyes with tears . . . and make you soft and warm inside . . . then you'll know that something inside of you is dead. . . . And then you will remember what Christmas means—the beginning of Christianity . . . the second chance for the world . . . the hope for peace . . . and the only way.

The promise the angels sang is the most wonderful music the world has ever heard. "Peace on earth and good will toward men."

It was not a pronouncement upon the state of the world then, nor is it a reading of the international barometer of the present time. . . . But it is a promise—God's promise—of what one day will come to pass.

The years that are gone are graveyards in which all the persuasions of men have rumbled into dust. If history has any voice, it is to say that all these ways of men lead nowhere. There remains one way—The Way—untried, untested, unexplored fully. . . . The way of Him Who was born a Babe in Bethlehem." . . .

We want to hold on to the old customs and traditions because they strengthen our family ties, bind us to our friends, make us one with all mankind for whom the Child was born, and bring us back again to the God Who gave His only begotten Son, that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

So we will not "spend" Christmas . . . nor "observe" Christmas. We will "keep" Christmas—keep it as it is . . . in all the loveliness of its ancient traditions.

May we keep it in our hearts, that we may be kept in its hope.