



Christmastide

December 27, 2020

Today's podcast is a collection of carols and a series of reflection from some of my favorite pastors and authors. There is no sermon and no sacrament of Holy Communion. I pray you find this to be a blessed devotional time during the days of Christmastide. Merry Christmas - Pastor Jim

O come, O Come, Emmanuel	Rob Leveridge
Welcome	Jim Coyl
Sweet Little Jesus Boy	Dr. Michael Plunkett
Reflection	Fr. Richard Rohr
Away in a Manger	La Muna and Antonio Moreno
Reflection	Henry Nouwen
Mary Did you Know	Kelly Koontz
Reflection	G.K. Chesterton
Jesus, Jesus	IMMV Band
Reflection	Rob Bell
Silent Night	Lea Morris
Closing	Jim Coyl
Go Tell it On The Mt.	M.a.G.I.C.

U.C.C. Christmas Pageant

Much of this music has been provided by the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. It was originally produced as part of a Christmas Pageant offered to all UCC congregations. You can watch it here: [UCC Christmas Pageant](https://www.new.uccfiles.com/mp4/UCCChristmas-Full-withmagi.mp4)
<https://www.new.uccfiles.com/mp4/UCCChristmas-Full-withmagi.mp4>

The Beach Church Christmas Special



Children's Corner

The following tasks are considered (near) impossible for humans to complete. Try out these 'simple' tests to see if anyone can succeed.

Twitch your nose (without moving the rest of your face)

Lick your elbow

Rotate your right leg in a clockwise motion, while drawing a '6' in the air with you right hand

Wiggle your ears

Place your palm on a flat surface with your middle finger curled underneath, then raise (only) your ring finger

Can you think of anything that is impossible? Like flying, or running 100 mph. There are so many things that we just can't do.

But you know, there are also so many things that CAN do. Let's try some of those. Can we breathe? Raise our hands? Look up at the ceiling? Talk? Spin in a circle?

See?

And that's just a few of the many, many, many, many, many, many, MANY things we CAN do.

God carefully chose those things for us, making sure He remembered all the important ones; like eating, breathing, and talking. I mean, is licking your elbow really that important?!?

But, did you know, that if God wanted you to fly, or needed you wiggle your ears, He could do it.

Before Jesus was born, God made two things that weren't possible, become possible. God chose two special women to become pregnant and have babies.

Now, I know this might not sound impossible – I mean, women get pregnant all the time, right? – but for these women, it really was impossible.

The first woman was Elizabeth, who became the mother to John the Baptist. Elizabeth was very old, much too old ever become pregnant. Plus she was "barren", which means it was physically impossible for her to get pregnant and have babies. But that didn't stop God. God wanted Elizabeth to be the mother of John the Baptist, so He did just that. Even though she was much too old, and her body said 'NO', Elizabeth got pregnant and gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

But that's not all. God chose Mary too. God wanted Mary to get pregnant and give birth to baby Jesus, so He did just that. Mary wasn't too old – she was just the opposite – Mary was too young, and it was physically impossible for her to get pregnant yet. That didn't stop God though; God wanted Mary pregnant, so Mary got pregnant, and gave birth to baby Jesus.

It can be difficult to understand sometimes how something that is impossible can suddenly become possible. When we think about the impossible, that's it; our thinking ends right there. I cannot run 100 mph. You cannot sprout feathers and fly home. But there is something very important missing there. Do you know what it is?

God! Mary didn't just get pregnant – GOD made it that way. Elizabeth didn't just get pregnant – GOD made it that way.

If God wanted you to sprout feathers, you would. And if God wanted me to run 100 mph, I would be getting ready for the Olympics. Because if God wants it that way, God will make it that way. Because NOTHING is impossible with God.

Let's think about some of the "impossible" things that God made possible. Can you think of any that you've learned from the bible?

How about our lesson and scripture today:

Elizabeth and Mary getting pregnant

Can you think of others? What about...

The parting of the Red Sea

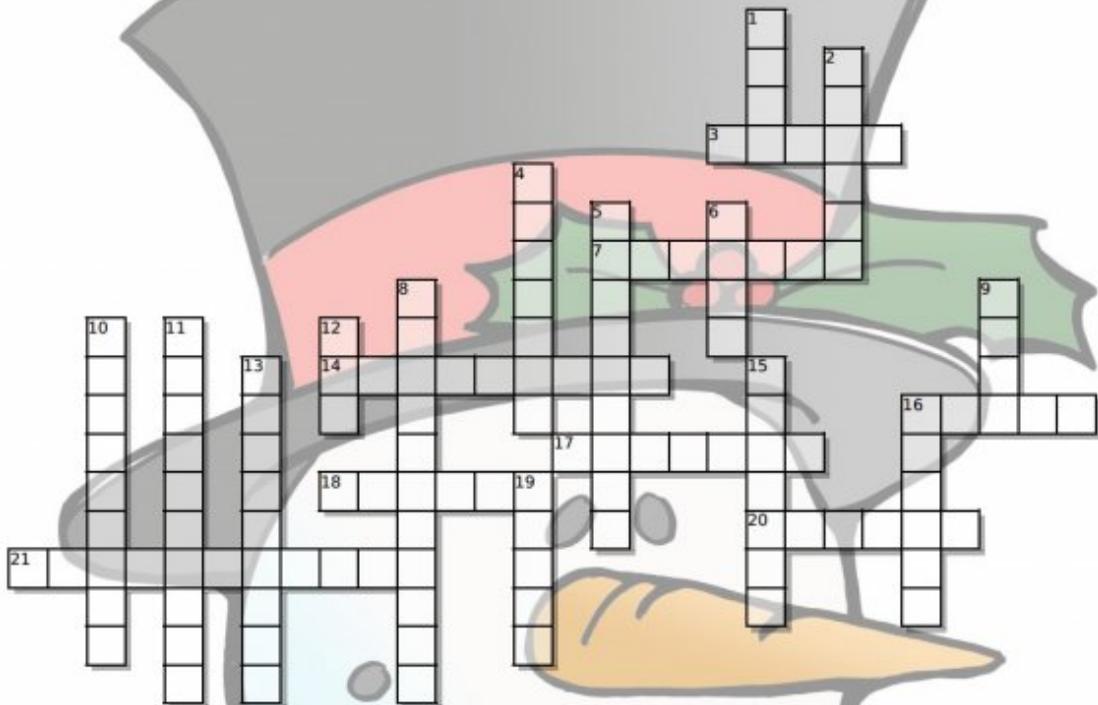
Manna falling from heaven

A whale swallowing Jonah

Jesus coming back from the dead

We don't have to do a lot of special things to be in God's family. All we have to do is trust and believe in Him, and anything can happen.

Merry Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

- 3 Santa's helpers
- 7 the red nosed reindeer
- 14 things hung on the Christmas tree
- 16 people send Christmas _____
- 17 are you _____ or nice?
- 18 Santa's vehicle
- 20 creamy Christmas drink
- 21 Brings presents on Christmas

DOWN

- 1 what snowman eyes are made of

- 2 decoration for the front door
- 4 baked sweets
- 5 traditional Christmas dessert
- 6 on kids' wish lists
- 8 popular Christmas song
- 9 goes at the top of the tree or in the night sky
- 10 hung by the chimney with care
- 11 striped peppermint hooks
- 12 goes on top of a present
- 13 falls from the sky in the winter
- 15 gloves without fingers
- 16 Christmas songs
- 19 prickly green plant used to decorate

WORD BANK: WREATH, TOYS, STOCKINGS, STAR, SNOWFLAKE, SLEIGH, SANTACLAUSE, RUDOLPH, ORNAMENTS, NAUGHTY, MITTENS, JINGLEBELLS, HOLLY, FRUITCAKE, ELVES, EGGNOG, COOKIES, COAL, CAROLS, CARDS, CANDYCANES, BOW

So keep praying and keep listening! God can and will do mighty things!