



Dec. 23 2018

**Church of Christ**  
128 Maple Ave.  
Chardon, OH 44024  
440-286-5505

## Schedule of Services:

**Greeting:** Tom

**Song Leader:** Dale

**Opening Hymn:**

100—Take My Life and Let it Be

**Opening Prayer:**

Mark

**Hymn:**

84—Have Thine Own Way

**Scripture Reading:**

Larry

Colossians 3:12-17

**Hymn:**

649—I Gave My Life for Thee

**Lord's Supper:**

Myron & Robert

**Hymn:**

261—Love Lifted Me

**Sermon:** Tom

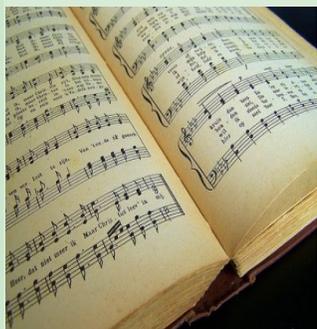
**Invitation Hymn:**

614—Who At My Door Is Standing?

**Closing Hymn:**

561—It Is Well With My Soul

**Closing Prayer:** Ryan



Chardon Church of Christ

Issue 51

## *Why No Special Christmas Services?*

By Greg Gwin

"Christmas was for the first time celebrated in Rome in 354, in Constantinople in 379, and in Antioch in 388." (Commentary on Luke, N. Geldenhuys, p. 102)

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church, and before the fifth century there was no general consensus of opinion as to when it should come in the calendar, whether January 6th, March 25th, or December 25th." (Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. 5, p. 641)

"The observance of Christmas is not of divine appointment, nor is it of New Testament origin. The day of Christ's birth cannot be ascertained from the New Testament, or indeed, from any other source. Christians of the first three centuries do not speak of any special observance of the nativity of Christ." (McClintock and Strong, vol. 2, p. 276)

Folks are often surprised to learn that we have no special religious observance of the Christmas holiday. Such practices are so common place in most denominations that many people think it is odd when we don't sing Christmas songs, decorate the church building with seasonal ornaments, and conduct special worship services. Please allow us to explain.

First, it should be pointed out that there is no lack of appreciation in our hearts for the great gift of God in sending Jesus to this earth. We praise Him for this and continually express our thanks for the salvation made available to us through Christ. Obviously, Jesus could not have died for our sins if He had not first been born. We rejoice in the fulfilled prophecies surrounding His miraculous birth in Bethlehem. Hopefully, our gratitude for these blessings extends to every day of the year, not just one special holiday.

The Scriptures instruct that "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). This means that we must have Bible authority for all of our practices. We are also warned that our worship becomes "vain" or worthless by "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). With these verses in mind, the question must be asked as to the origin of the religious observance of Christmas - where did it come from?

A search of the New Testament reveals absolutely no indication of a special annual observance of the birth of Jesus. There is no command to do so, and the earliest Christians did not have a day set aside to celebrate His birth. Historical information indicates that Lyberius of Rome in 354 A. D. first designated the date of December 25th as the birthday of Christ. Obviously, the Christmas celebration became an established practice centuries after the church began. These simple observations demonstrate that this religious holiday originates with man, not God. This is the reason why we make no effort to engage in special religious activities on the day that men have appointed as Christmas.

## PRAYER LIST

- \*Gary and Cindy are out of town.
- \*Ray and Barbara are visiting their daughter.
- \*Rebecca is helping Audrey take care of Asher following his surgery.
- \*Mark's wife, Debbie, is recovering surgery to remove skin cancer.
- \*Juanita's daughter Debbie is home from the hospital and her son Ron is on dialysis.
- \*Pat is feeling some better.
- \*Dale's friend Zarna's father has health issues and pray for Zarna as well while she reads the Bible. Pray that she is receptive to the gospel.
- \*Larry is having back pain.

## CALENDAR

- Jan. 6—Bible Study 10 am  
Mark
- Dec. 23—Worship 11 am & 6 pm  
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 30—Bible Study 10 am  
Mark
- Dec. 30—Worship 11 am & 6 pm  
Speaker: Tom
- Jan. 2—b. Carl
- Jan. 6—Bible Study 10 am  
Mark
- Jan. 6—Worship 11 am & 6 pm  
Speaker: Tom
- Jan. 6—Bible Study 10 am  
Mark

Answer to Puzzle: whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

## Character of the New Man

Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:12-17

ABOVE	ADMONISHING	AGAINST	ANOTHER
ANYONE	BEARING	BELOVED	CALLED
CHRIST	COMPLAINT	DWELL	ELECT
FORGAVE	FORGIVING	GRACE	HEARTS
HUMILITY	HYMNS	KINDNESS	LONGSUFFERING
MEEKNESS	MERCIES	PEACE	PERFECTION
PSALMS	RICHLY	SINGING	SONGS
SPIRITUAL	TEACHING	TENDER	THANKFUL
THEREFORE	THINGS	WISDOM	

G R L E L E C T W H A L S N M Y H A  
 T N E O E V E R Y O L A U D O I N G  
 W O I H N R D O R D E U E D D O S A  
 B A A V T G R E D N E T F L L M I I  
 E D S N I O S Y L H C I R K L T G N  
 L M H O E G N U N A Y R M A N R N S  
 O O N E N O R A F T F I S T A A I T  
 V N S O H G E O I F G P L C O T H R  
 E I E D I J S L F N E S E T E H C T  
 D S I S U T I S I C G R I H F E A V  
 I H C N G M C G A B T H I I O R E S  
 A I R N U K N E S E T O G N R E T S  
 O N E H D I P T F A H E F G G F L E  
 A G M T S H E C H R I S T S A O L N  
 T N I A L P M O C I E R T H V R E K  
 E N O Y N A R O U N G P H H E E W E  
 S S E N D N I K I G M C A L L E D E  
 S T R A E H W I S D O M E V O B A M

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Swallowing of pride seldom causes indigestion.

**SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm**

**Wednesday Evening — Postponed until Spring**

Website: [Chardonchurchofchrist.org](http://Chardonchurchofchrist.org)

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