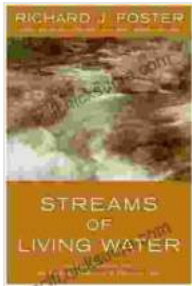


# Celebrating The Great Traditions Of Christ



## Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christ by Richard J. Foster

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1744 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 458 pages



Christmas is a time for joy, giving, and spending time with loved ones. But it's also a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and the great traditions that have been passed down for centuries.

In this article, we will explore some of the most popular Christmas traditions and their origins.

### The Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is one of the most iconic symbols of Christmas. It is believed that the tradition of decorating a tree with lights and ornaments originated in Germany in the 16th century. The first Christmas trees were decorated with apples, nuts, and candles. Over time, the tradition spread to other parts of Europe and eventually to the United States.

Today, Christmas trees are decorated with a variety of ornaments, including lights, balls, tinsel, and candy canes. The Christmas tree is a symbol of hope and joy, and it is a reminder of the birth of Jesus Christ.

## **Santa Claus**

Santa Claus is another popular Christmas tradition. He is said to be a jolly old man who lives at the North Pole with his elves. On Christmas Eve, Santa Claus delivers presents to children all over the world.

The tradition of Santa Claus can be traced back to Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century bishop from Turkey. Saint Nicholas was known for his generosity and kindness, and he often gave gifts to children. Over time, the legend of Saint Nicholas evolved into the modern-day Santa Claus.

## **Reindeer**

Reindeer are closely associated with Santa Claus. They are said to pull Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. The tradition of reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh can be traced back to the 19th century. In 1823, Clement Clarke Moore wrote the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," which included the line "Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!" This poem helped to popularize the idea of Santa Claus's reindeer.

## **Elves**

Elves are another popular Christmas tradition. They are said to be small, magical creatures who help Santa Claus make toys. The tradition of elves can be traced back to Scandinavian mythology. In Norse mythology, elves were known as svartalfar, or dark elves. They were said to be skilled craftsmen who lived underground.

Over time, the tradition of elves evolved into the modern-day Christmas elves. They are now seen as Santa's helpers who make toys in his workshop at the North Pole.

## **Presents**

Giving and receiving presents is a major part of Christmas tradition. The tradition of giving gifts can be traced back to the Three Wise Men who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Over time, the tradition of giving gifts spread to other parts of the world.

Today, giving and receiving presents is a way to show love and appreciation for our loved ones. It is also a way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

## **Carols**

Christmas carols are a popular way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Carols are songs that are typically sung during the Christmas season. The tradition of singing carols can be traced back to the Middle Ages. In the 13th century, Saint Francis of Assisi encouraged people to sing carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Today, Christmas carols are sung all over the world. They are a way to spread joy and goodwill during the Christmas season.

## **Nativity Scene**

A nativity scene is a representation of the birth of Jesus Christ. Nativity scenes typically include figures of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, and the shepherds and wise men. The tradition of nativity scenes can be traced

back to the 13th century. In 1223, Saint Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene in a cave in Italy.

Today, nativity scenes are a popular way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. They are a reminder of the humble beginnings of Christianity.

## **Manger**

A manger is a feeding trough for animals. The manger is where Jesus Christ was born. The tradition of using a manger in nativity scenes can be traced back to the Gospel of Luke. In the Gospel of Luke, it is said that Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn.

The manger is a reminder of the humble beginnings of Jesus Christ. It is also a symbol of the hope and joy that the birth of Jesus brought to the world.

## **Shepherds**

The shepherds were the first people to visit Jesus after he was born. The shepherds were told by an angel that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem. They went to Bethlehem and found Jesus in a manger. The shepherds were overjoyed to see Jesus, and they spread the news of his birth to everyone they met.

The shepherds are a reminder of the importance of humility. They were simple people who were chosen by God to be the first to visit Jesus. The shepherds teach us that God can use anyone, no matter how humble, to do his work.

## **Wise Men**

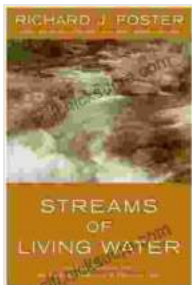
The wise men were three visitors who came to see Jesus after he was born. The wise men were from the East, and they brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The wise men were guided to Jesus by a star. The wise men were overjoyed to see Jesus, and they worshipped him as the king of the Jews.

The wise men are a reminder of the importance of faith. They travelled a long way to see Jesus, and they brought him gifts because they believed that he was the Messiah. The wise men teach us that we should have faith in God, even when we don't understand everything.

## Star of Bethlehem

The star of Bethlehem is a symbol of the birth of Jesus Christ. The star of Bethlehem is said to have guided the wise men to Jesus. The star of Bethlehem is a reminder of the hope that the birth of Jesus brought to the world. The star of Bethlehem teaches us that God is always with us, even when we can't see him.

Christmas is a time for joy, giving, and spending time with loved ones. It is also a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and the great traditions that have been passed down for centuries. These traditions remind us of the hope, joy, and love that Jesus brought to the world.



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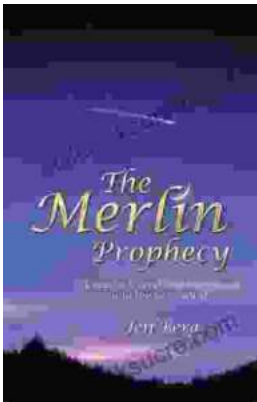
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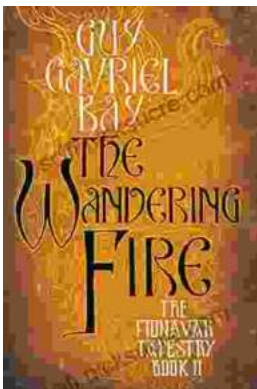
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