

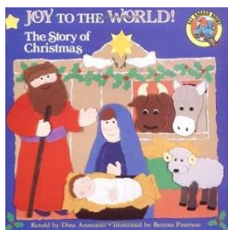
PRE-K-and Wiggly children

FAMILY TAKE-IT-HOME for DECEMBER 24, 2017

TOPIC: Children & Hope Unitarian Universalism Sources: Christian Tradition,
UU Principle # 1 Each Person is Important

(by Mary Collins, Children's Coordinator, Unitarian Church in Westport, CT)

*Activities on Sunday morning: Act out the story the Birth of Jesus using pieces from a crèche,
Color & cut out a crèche or create peace dove, holiday songs*

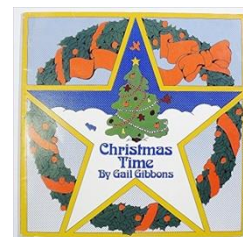


Story: The Christmas Story (there are so many versions but for the basic story:

[Joy To The World: The Christmas Story Retold by Dina Anastasio Illustrated by Bettina](#)

Paterson - The text gives you the full story from the Annunciation (Angel Gabriel tells Mary she's having a baby) through to the Escape to Egypt and back to live in Nazareth. It includes the music & words to the song at the end as well.

Alternate: [Christmas Time by Gail Gibbons](#)- This particular Gibbons book is old but it is age appropriate for Pre-schoolers and young children. It has a short telling of the basic Christmas story and adds the "why" of other holiday traditions.



NOTE: In these books, as in many children's books, the illustrations portray a white family (in [Christmas Time](#) the baby Jesus has yellow hair which would have been highly unlikely for people of that geographic location... A good thing to notice & talk about)

MESSAGE:

- Christians tell the story of Jesus' because they believe that Jesus was a very special baby - that he was God (also known as the creator of all things). It's also why the story has angels and a star and special visitors with gifts – Christians believe Jesus was important and special and that these signs show it.
- UU's learn about Jesus because he grew up to love and care for people and taught others to do so. **(Christianity is one of our Six UU Sources of wisdom)**. Unitarian Universalist Religious Education pioneer and minister, **Sophia Fahs said that "Each night a Child is Born is A Holy Night"**
UU Principle #1: Each Person is Important. Everyone has something special inside them.

TAKE IT HOME:

- **Name one thing that each member of your family "gifts" to you just by being born and a part of the family** (as you define family). Who shares joy? Laughter? Caring? Telling stories? Listens to you?
 - **Create a picture or collage with "Gift Boxes" of each person** (could be use snippets of wrapping paper and glue stick and markers. Title: The Gifts of My Family (and friends)
- **Paper crèche** - <http://madebyjoel.com/2012/12/paper-city-nativity-scene.html> - Ask the Children to play out what they know of the Christmas story – add more animals! and for little ones
 - **add movement** (connection with our bodies) Invite children to move like the animals in the manger: Donkey, cow, lamb, dove, mice, cat...
- **For older elementary children** - Compare the original story with this 12 min. VIDEO of this imaginative book:

The Three Wise Queens by James Allen (author), *András Barlogh* (Illustrator)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7Ga-94y6qU>

