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## "Treasure Christ in Your Heart"

By  
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**What** Psalm 119, the longest Psalm, famously states: *I treasure and store up your word in my heart*. Have you ever wondered if Mary, who we know treasured in her heart all the things that took place that first Christmas, was meditating on the words of the very Psalm? This meaningful reading focuses on the hope of Jesus and invites your community of believers to treasure in your hearts this Christmas. Part of the "Christmas with the Psalms" series, this easy-to-produce reading is for two readers. It will bring your service alive in a special way this Advent.

Themes: Advent, Hope, Readers Theater, Christmas, Psalms, Treasures, Community, Duet

**Who** Two Readers, male or female.

**When** The Present.

**Costumes** Age appropriate, no distracting logos, necklines, or hemlines

**Props** A candle and a lighter.

**Why** Psalm 119:1- 19, Luke 2:19

**How** **If you are reading for an online service**, read it with passion and emotion, and don't be afraid to take your time. Look at the audience or into the computer camera. Ensure all your notifications are turned off and emails are closed and have the PDF on screen near the camera.

**If you read the script from the pulpit**, be familiar enough with your lines so that your head isn't down in the script the entire time. Look audience members in the eye. Take time to pause and breathe. Embrace the awe and mystery of the scripture.

**Time** 2-3 minutes

*Lights up. The **Readers** address the audience directly.*

**Reader 1:** When you were a kid, did you ever find little treasures?

**Reader 2:** Gold buttons.

**Reader 1:** Special rocks.

**Reader 2:** Flowers in various stages of bloom.

**Reader 1:** As kids we looked at the world with so much wonder.

**Reader 2:** We could find treasures in the smallest things.

**Reader 1:** Ask your parents.

**Reader 2:** They probably remember well all the things you collected.

**Reader 1:** And how you stored them in the most interesting places.

**Reader 2:** If you have kids, maybe you've found the secret stash of treasure in your child's room.

**Reader 1:** Or in a kitchen drawer beside the spoons.

**Reader 2:** A melted chocolate hidden in your shoes.

**Reader 1:** Or a pile of rocks in that cupholder way at the back of your minivan.

**Reader 2:** We all treasure different things, and in each stage of life we store them up in different places.

**Reader 1:** The Bible tells us that the heart is a storage unit.

**Reader 2:** We need to be careful what we put into it!

**Reader 1:** Whatever we hoard in there builds up interest, just like a savings account does at the bank.

**Reader 2:** And whatever we invest in it grows. For better or for worse.

**Reader 1:** *I treasure and store up your word in my heart, so that I might not sin against you* is a famous verse in the Psalms.

**Reader 2:** David made it his habit to store up truth in his heart.

**Reader 1:** Treasuring God's word in this way transformed him.

**Reader 2:** Have you ever wondered if Mary, who we know treasured in her heart all the things that took place that first Christmas, was meditating on the words of that Psalm – the very Psalm that her great great great great great great father-in-law wrote?

**Reader 1:** As she sat in that strange barn, exhausted, having barely made the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a dusty road through the hill country of Judea, did she think of the words David wrote hundreds of years before her?

**Reader 2:** She literally held God's greatest treasure, Jesus, in her hands and pressed him against her heart.

**Reader 1:** Imagine how those words, written down by King David, whose family she belonged to, whose line would bring forth the Messiah, resonated with her on that first Christmas.

**Reader 2:** She held the Hope of the world in her hands.

**Reader 1:** She treasured His advent in her heart.

**Reader 2:** Just like treasured wealth can be passed from generation to generation, so can our most holy faith.

**Reader 1:** So can our hope in Jesus.

**Reader 2:** The Christmas story is filled with treasure and it reminds us about the most important place to store them.

***Reader 1** holds up the candle. **Reader 2** lights it with the lighter.*

**Reader 1:** Today as we light this candle of Advent, we open our hearts to the hope that Jesus brings.

**Reader 2:** We remember that what we treasure in our hearts grows.

**Reader 1:** God, we ask that you grow hope in us and in our community so that the hope of Jesus transforms our lives. Amen.

*Lights down.*