

# Kirkenyt November 2017



## Guirlanden – hvad gør den på juletræet?

Om en månedstid begynder mange at pynte juletræet. Det meste julepynt, har en eller anden betydning, det har noget det minder os om. Ikke bare fra vores barndoms jul, men også symbolsk. De flettede hjerter: hjerternes fest. Stjernen: den, som hang over Betlehem. Englene: dem, som kom til hyrderne. Men hvad er meningen med en guirlande? Egentlig er det jo en lænke eller kæde, med en masse små led, der er sat ind i hinanden. Men er der en historie, som gør at vi kan forstå, hvorfor der skal hænge en glanspapirskæde, på vores juletræ? Ja, det er der, men det er historien om en usynlig kæde. En usynlig julekæde, som Gud sænkede ned til jorden, julenat for mange år siden, da Jesus blev født. Man kunne ikke se den, men man kunne se, hvor den løb ned fra himlen – det gjorde den, nemlig lige det sted, hvor den store stjerne, lyste over stalden i Betlehem. Og den usynlige kæde, endte over krybben, hvor Jesus lå. Og hvem ved, måske brugte de dovneste engle, kæden til at kure ned ad, da de skulle ned og synge for hyrderne på marken. Mens de mere energiske engle sikkert fløj ved egen kraft....



Da Jesus blev født, bandt Gud jorden og himlen sammen med en usynlig kæde. Det gjorde han i Jesus. Fordi Jesus var fra himlen – Gud var jo hans far. Men Jesus var også et helt almindeligt menneske, som os, der lever på jorden – fordi Maria var hans Mor. Juleaften sænkede Gud en kæde ned, for at vise: at himlen og jorden er knyttet sammen. Vise os, at Gud hører sammen med os. Han følger os, elsker os, og passer på os! Hver eneste dag, og hver eneste nat. Da Jesus blev født, da bandt Gud en lænke, der er stærkere end nogen bånd – for det bånd Gud bandt, det blev bundet af det stærkeste stof der overhovedet findes! Det stof hedder: kærlighed! Den kæde af kærlighed, mellem jord og himmel, som blev sænket ned, da Jesus blev født, er der stadig. - Eller rettere: der er ikke kun én, men millionvis af kæder.



Nemlig lige så mange, som der er mennesker. Hver især, har vi vores lille usynlige kæde, op til Gud. Og den kæde er god at have, for den kan man nemlig rykke i. Rykke i, og sige tak til Gud, for at vi har hinanden, for at vi har det så godt, og for at vi nu snart skal fejre jul igen. Vi kan også rykke i den, når der er noget vi er kedede af, eller bange for, eller føler os alene. Ja, føler os alene, for helt alene er vi jo netop ikke, så længe vi har kæden at rykke i. Men nu ser det jo lidt fjollet ud at gå og rykke i en kæde, som er usynlig! I stedet kan vi gøre noget andet – vi kan folder hænderne, som et lille led, i en kæde – og, sende en bøn op til Gud. Når vi beder, ja så retter vi blikket væk fra os selv, og lægger dét vi beder om, i Guds hænder. I bønne bliver det tydeligt, at Gud virkelig er kommet til verden, for at være sammen med hver enkelt af os, for dér bliver afstanden ophævet. Det er dét guirlanden på juletræet skal minde os om: at himmel og jord nu er bundet sammen, af Guds kærlighed til os! – og, vi kan sagtens gå rundt og trække noget mere i den julekæde!

Glædelig jul - Pastor Anja G. Mathiassen

*(translation)*

## **The Garland – What’s it doing on the Christmas Tree?**

In about a month’s time a lot of people will start decorating their Christmas tree.

Most Christmas decorations have some sort of meaning or something they remind us of. There are things that remind us of childhood Christmases, or decorations that have a symbolic meaning.

The plaited hearts: “the festival of the hearts” as we say in Danish. The star: the one that shone over Bethlehem. Angels: the ones who appeared before the shepherds. But what does the garland symbolise? It is actually a chain, made up of lots of small links that have been joined up.

But are there any stories, that can explain why there has to be a paper chain on our Christmas tree?

Yes, there is, but it is the story of an invisible chain. An invisible Christmas Garland which God let down to Earth on Christmas Eve all those many years ago when Jesus was born. You couldn’t see it, but you could see where it descended from Heaven. It did so in the very spot where the big star shone over the stable in Bethlehem. And the invisible chain ended right over the crib where Jesus lay. And who knows – maybe the laziest angels slid down the chain, when they came down to sing to the shepherds in the fields while the more energetic angels would probably have flown down under their own steam..

When Jesus was born, God joined Earth and Heaven together with an invisible chain. He did this through Jesus. For Jesus was from Heaven – because God was his father. But Jesus was also just an ordinary human being, like us who live on Earth – because Mary was his mother.

On Christmas Eve God lowered a chain down to Earth to show that Heaven and Earth are tied together. He did it to demonstrate that God belongs with us. He accompanies us, loves us and looks after us! Every single day, every single night.

When Jesus was born, God made a chain that is stronger than any other bond. For the bond that God created was made of the strongest material in the world. It is called: Love. This chain of love which joined Heaven to Earth when Jesus was born, is still there. Or rather: there’s not one but millions of chains.

There are as many chains as there are people. Each and every one of us has their own little invisible chain linking us to God. And this chain is good to have because you can pull at it. You can pull at it and say thank you to God for the fact that we have each other, and for the fact that we’re doing so well, and for the fact that we’ll be celebrating Christmas again soon. We can also pull the chain when we’re sad or scared or just feel alone. Yes, when we’re feeling alone, because as long as we have the chain to pull, we’re not alone. Now, it does look a bit silly when we’re walking around pulling invisible chains! But we can do something else: we can fold our hands, like a small link in a chain – and send a prayer up to God.

When we pray, we direct our thoughts away from ourselves, and put whatever it is we’re praying for into God’s hands. In the prayers it becomes clear that God really did come to Earth to be with every single one of us, because the distance becomes insignificant. That is what the garland on the Christmas tree is supposed to remind us of: that Heaven and Earth are now joined up by means of God’s love for us.

And it’s perfectly okay to go on pulling at that Christmas chain!

Happy Christmas!



## ***Julegudstjenester i New Zealand 2017***

I løbet af den næste månedstid er der 5 danske julegudstjenester i New Zealand, og du er velkommen:  
(*There are 5 Danish Christmas Church Services in New Zealand over the next month*)

**Wellington:** *Saturday 25th November 2017 at 5.30pm Christmas service (free) and after the service Christmas dinner at 6.30pm (\$39 per person, discount for kids,) - Brooklyn Community Centre, 18 Harrison St, Brooklyn*

**Hamilton:** *Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 at 10.30am - St.Peter's Cathedral, 51 Victoria Street, Hamilton*  
After the Service there will be a shared lunch, everyone is welcome. Please bring a plate.  
For more information: <http://hamilton.danish.org.nz/>

**Auckland:** *Sunday 3rd December 2017 at 4pm - Danish House, Penrose, Auckland*  
For more information: <http://www.danishsociety.org.nz/>

**Dunedin:** *Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 2pm, St Marks Presbyterian Church, 304 Pine Hill Road, Liberton, Dunedin.*  
After the Service there will be a shared afternoon tea, everyone is welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

**Christchurch:** *Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm, All Saints Anglican Church, Burwood, 305 New Brighton Rd, Burwood.*  
After the Service we have supper and chat, everyone is welcome, please bring a small plate to share.



# Følg den Danske Lutherske Kirke i New Zealand

Du er altid velkommen til at kontakte den Danske Lutherske Kirke i New Zealand. Du kan ringe, e-maile eller dukke op til en af vores gudstjenester eller arrangementer rundt i New Zealand. For mere information, kontakt venligst Pastor Anja G. Mathiassen [anjagronne@hotmail.com](mailto:anjagronne@hotmail.com) Telefon +64 3464028.

Du kan også følge os på facebook "Danish Lutheran Church of New Zealand"

<https://www.facebook.com/Danish-Lutheran-Church-of-New-Zealand-1079743618702403/>



## How to support the Danish Lutheran Church of New Zealand

The Danish Lutheran Church in New Zealand is a private church under the Danish Seamen's Church Abroad (DSUK). The Danish Lutheran Church receives no church tax from Denmark and the congregation and the friends of the Danes are responsible for the entire economy of the church. The church relies on volunteers and donations. The funds for the church's operations originate thus from fundraising, donations, and gifts.

If you would like to support the Danish Lutheran Church of New Zealand, you can make a contribution at any time via

Internet banking:

The Danish Lutheran Church of New Zealand - Westpac New Zealand,  
Account No: 03 0502 0445253-000

Cheques can be posted to:

Danish Lutheran Church of New Zealand  
Treasurer  
Majbrit Lyngby Christiansen  
PO Box 9331  
Hamilton 3240  
New Zealand

If paying from overseas then use:

SWIFT kode: WPACNZ2W.  
IBAN kode: 0305020445253000

You can also support the church via a Danish bank account by depositing into DSUK's bank account and marking your payment "New Zealand". The funds will be transferred across to us at no additional cost to you. Send us a quick email when done so we can thank you in person, every bit counts so we are grateful for any appreciation shown. Details on how to support the church can be found on <http://www.dsuk.dk/saadan-stoetter-du-os/>

Or contact Treasurer Majbrit Lyngby Christiansen, email: [dkchurchsubs@gmail.com](mailto:dkchurchsubs@gmail.com) for more information.