

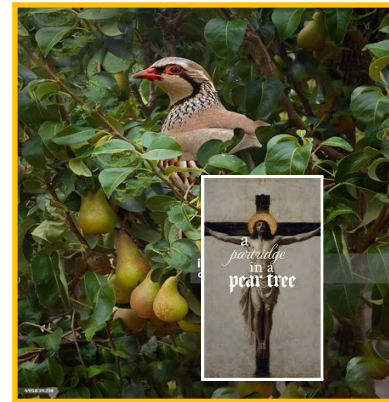
**12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS LYRICS -- TWO TURTLE DOVES AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE**

*Written by Frederic William Austin, an English baritone singer, a musical teacher and composer (1905–1930).*

The partridge represents Jesus Christ. A partridge is willing to risk its life to protect its babies, distracting predators. This bird is willing to sacrifice itself for the sake of others, like our Savior was willing to sacrifice His life on the Old Rugged Cross, A Tree, to redeem, reconcile and restore people's relationship to God.

**Two Turtle Doves**

The turtle doves represent the Scriptures: Old and New Testaments that tell the story of God's Love In Jesus. Joseph and Mary gave a sacrifice of two turtle doves like the ones on our altar today, a Jesus' presentation in the Temple.



**OTHER VERSES OF THE CHRISTMAS CAROL, 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS HAVE BIBLICAL MEANINGS ALSO...**

**Three French Hens**

The hens represent faith, hope and love, referring to the Apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

**Four Calling Birds**

The calling birds represent the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

**Five Golden Rings**

The golden rings represent the five books of the Pentateuch — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy — which is the Old Testament law. The law reveals the human race's need for a Savior by revealing our sin.

**Six Geese A-Laying**

The geese represent the six days when God actively created as he rested on the seventh day.

- **Day One:** The light and darkness, and night and day (Genesis 1:3-5)
- **Day Two:** The sky and the atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8)
- **Day Three:** The land, sea and vegetation (Genesis 1:9-13)
- **Day Four:** The sun, moon, stars and heavenly bodies (Genesis 1:14-19)
- **Day Five:** The birds of the air and the fish of the sea (Genesis 1:20-23)
- **Day Six:** God created land animals and man in his own image and likeness (Genesis 1:24-31)

**Seven Swans A-Swimming**

These are meant to represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord (awe)

These gifts are described in Isaiah 11:1-2, "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

**Eight Maids A-Milking**

The maids represent the beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

### **Nine Ladies Dancing**

The ladies dancing represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit that is present in the lives of Christians. The Apostle Paul named these nine characteristics in Galatians 5:22-23, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

### **Ten Lords A-Leaping**

The lords a-leaping is the Ten Commandments, laid out in Exodus 20:

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s belongings.

### **11 Pipers Piping**

The pipers represented the 11 original disciples, who faithfully carried the Gospel to the world after Jesus’ ascension into heaven.

- Simon Peter
- Andrew
- James (the son of Zebedee)
- John
- Philip
- Bartholomew
- Thomas
- Matthew
- James (the son of Alphaeus)
- Thaddaeus
- Simon the Zealot

### **12 Drummers Drumming**

The drummers represent the 12 points of our United Methodist Church beliefs named in the Apostles’ Creed:

1. I believe in God, The Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
2. and in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
3. who was conceived by Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
4. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
5. Jesus descended into Hades; then on the third day He rose again from the dead (Resurrection Sunday);
6. Christ ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God The Almighty One;
7. from there Christ Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in The Holy Spirit,
9. the holy worldwide Church,
10. the communion of saints,
11. the forgiveness of sins,

12. the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting...AMEN!!!