

## Thankful for Christmas

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

It's finally the super-duper-official-we-really-mean-it-this-time-start-of-the-Christmas-Season!!! But if you're like me, you started a while ago...

I'm sure you've all heard it before: "Christmas decorations shouldn't be up before Thanksgiving!" "Christmas music is being played too early!" and "Christmas stuff is coming out into stores too early!"

Now I disagree with all of that. I think you can celebrate in whatever way works best for you. In fact, I think Thanksgiving and Christmas go pretty well together!



Fear not, this isn't going to be a post about the so-called Christmas Creep or whatever is the current trend to complain about. I understand the concern though. People don't want Thanksgiving to be forgotten in the excitement of Christmas celebrations. I get it.

When complaints are made to me about listening to Christmas music in November or even October, I usually joke: *"I don't forget about Thanksgiving. In*



*fact, I give thanks for Christmas, and I celebrate Thanksgiving by listening to Christmas music!!"*... and by that point they usually roll their eyes at me and go away, allowing me to go back to reading my book. (Which is probably a Christmas book, if I'm being honest!) But I don't think Thanksgiving

gets lost in the shuffle of Christmas, at least not if you're careful.

I got thinking: we make plans for Christmas, why not make plans to be thankful? This year I purchased a Christmas planner that had a daily journal section in it.

The journal portion starts on November 1st and runs to the end of the year. Many of the prompts in November centered around being thankful. And I thought that was a great way to celebrate my two favorite holidays!



I thought I'd share a couple of the prompts from the journal and my answers to them. Let me encourage you to find ways to be thankful every day throughout the Christmas season! Find a journal or do a google search of "thanksgiving journal prompts" and you are well on your way!

### **Write about 3 things you're grateful for today.**

1. As silly as it might sound, I am thankful for our new dog Pumpkin. She is sweet and has been a blessing to us. I love that she loves to snuggle and



she's been a comforting presence. Dogs truly are man's best friends! I mean just look at this goofball!

2. I am thankful for podcasting - by doing a Christmas podcast and a book podcast I've been able to meet and interview people from all walks of life, all over the world. Their stories have inspired me to pursue the dreams I've had.

3. I am grateful for Christmas - what it means to me, and that I get to spend Christmas with my family, that we'll be together and healthy and happy - more or less lol. I am finding ways to incorporate Christmas into my hobbies, and it's amazing.

### **What's a simple pleasure that you're grateful for**

I am grateful for reading, and the ability I have to read. There is something that is simple and relaxing about it. I love love that I am able to escape, find courage, role models, etc. through reading. I am thankful for the libraries and librarians who have helped change my life through recommending me great books. I'm also very thankful for my Grandparents who kept me in a good supply of books when I was a kid and encouraged my love of reading.



### **Write About Someplace you've been that you're grateful for.**

I actually answered with several places, but for our purposes today, I'll share the Christmasy one. I am thankful for the city of Omaha at Christmas time. They always have great events and concerts going on, and the downtown and old market areas are lit up with the lights of Christmas. My wife and I have

had plenty of free dates walking around the city admiring the Christmas lights.

It's also the town where I first got to see Gerald Dickens perform his one man show of A Christmas Carol. He's a great great grandson of



Charles Dickens, and seeing him in action in Omaha has become a yearly tradition (most years!) since 2012 or so. That's probably an article for another day, but i will always be grateful for that experience.

How about you? How would you answer these prompts? Let me know at [cozychristmaspodcast@gmail.com](mailto:cozychristmaspodcast@gmail.com)!

*All prompts are taken from the Christmas Planner created by Todd Killian from Christmas Clatter podcast. If you'd like information about it check out his podcast!*

Until next week my friends, Merry Christmas!