

# The Cosmic Christ (Colossians 1:15-20)

## Readers' Theater

Adapted from the NLT by Ralph F. Wilson (2025)

I've found that Readers' Theater is an effective way to present a passage of Scripture, highlighting its various dimensions through multiple voices. Colossians 1:15–20 is jam-packed with Christology. While I could unpack it through a sermon, I chose instead to explore it through choral reading—a method I refer to as Readers' Theater.

You'll notice repetition, synonymous phrasing, explanatory sentences, and occasional unison to emphasize key truths. This presentation is based on the New Living Translation (NLT) of Colossians 1:15–20, spoken by Reader 1 and expanded upon by Readers 2 and 3. You'll also hear echoes of John 1:1 and Isaiah 53:5–6.

I always prepare a separate script for each reader, highlighting their lines with a yellow marker for easy reference. If you choose to use this approach, be sure to rehearse at least three times with your readers to avoid awkward pauses between lines. The reading is designed to move quickly, building momentum for a cumulative impact.

READER 1	Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
READER 2	The visible image
READER 3	of the invisible God.
READER 2	Visible
READER 3	Invisible
READER 1	He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
READER 2	He was before anything was
READER 3	In the beginning was the Word
READER 2	And the Word was <i>with</i> God
READER 3	And the Word <i>was</i> God.
READER 1	for through him God created everything
READER 2	Everything.
READER 3	Everything!
READER 1	Everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.

READER 2           He made the things we can see  
 READER 3           and the things we can't see  
 READER 1           such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.  
 READER 2           Principalities and powers  
 READER 3           Even those now evil he once formed as good  
 READER 2           Everything was created through him and for him.  
 READER 1           He existed before anything else,  
 READER 2           Before anything!  
 READER 1           And he holds all creation together.  
 READER 2           Without him it would implode  
 READER 3           Spin out of control  
 READER 2           He's got the whole world in his hands  
 READER 3           Christ holds the universe together by his power.  
 READER 1           Christ is also the head of the church which is his body.  
 READER 2           The Church, God's people around the world  
 READER 3           Christ is head  
 READER 2           He is large and in charge.  
 READER 1           He is the beginning, the first one to rise from the dead  
 READER 2           But not the last one.  
 READER 3           He is supreme over all who rise from the dead.  
 READER 1           So he is first in everything.  
 READER 2           Yes, first.  
 READER 3           Primo.  
 READER 2           Number one.  
 READER 3           Jesus  
 READER 2           Jesus Christ  
 READER 3           Our Lord  
 ALL                IS SUPREME OVER ALL!  
 READER 1           For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,

READER 2	The fullness of God
READER 3	All there is of God
READER 2	Was packed into the Man Christ Jesus
READER 3	Fully man, fully God
READER 2	Compressed into human flesh
READER 1	And through him
READER 2	Through Christ
READER 1	God reconciled everything to himself.
READER 2	Reconciled
READER 3	Everything
READER 2	All that was at war with God Christ reconciled
READER 3	Brought together
READER 2	Made one in him
READER 3	Our warring hearts were healed.
READER 1	He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.
READER 2	He was pierced for our transgressions,
READER 3	He was crushed for our iniquities;
READER 2	The punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
READER 3	and by his wounds we are healed.
READER 2	All we like sheep had gone astray, but he searched for us and brought us home.
READER 1	Christ our Savior
READER 2	Christ the image of the invisible God
READER 3	Christ who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End
READER 2	Has come to bring us home
READER 3	Home
ALL (quietly)	HOME AT LAST