

AVOWED Christians



The LORD has
made known
His salvation;
He has
revealed His
righteousness
in the sight of
the nations.

(Psalm 98:2, NASB)

Christmas Hymns



Sing to the
LORD,
bless His name;
Proclaim good
tidings of
His salvation
from day to
day.

(Psalm 96:1, NASB)

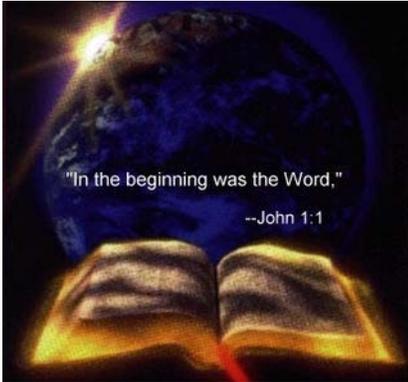


Pitzer Family

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.
Praising and worshipping Jesus Christ in Song, Scripture and Prayers.

The Word Made Flesh

John 1:1-14 (ESV)



1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. He was in the beginning with God.
3. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

8. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

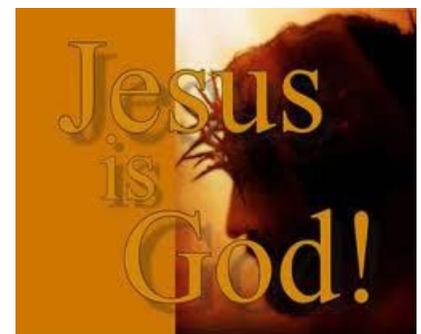
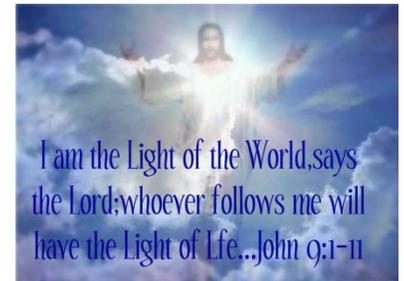
10. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

11. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

12. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

13. Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14. **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**



Joy to the World

[Words by: Isaac Watts, 1719 / Music by: Lowell Mason, 1848 (Public Domain)]

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove;
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders, of His love.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

[Words by: Charles Wesley, 1739 / Music by: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arranged by William Hayman Cummings, 1855 (Public Domain)]

1. Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the new born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the new born King"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the favored one.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Di-et-y.
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel;
Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the new born King"

3. Hail! the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Hail the son of Righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings,
Mild He lays His glory by; born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth;
Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the new born King"

*But we all,...are changed into the same image from glory to glory,
Even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18*

O' Come All Ye Faithful

[John Francis Wade, circa 1743 (Public Domain)]

1. O' Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O' come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels;

**O' come let us adore Him, O' come let us adore Him,
O' come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O' sing all ye bright hosts of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

**O' come let us adore Him, O' come let us adore Him,
O' come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,

**O' come let us adore Him, O' come let us adore Him,
O' come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

Silent Night

[Words by: Josef Mohr, circa 1816-1818, / Music by: Franz Gruber, circa 1820 (Public Domain)]

1. Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm; All is bright,
'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

3. Silent night, Holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing,
Al-le-lu-ia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

4. Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Matthew 2:1-12 (KJV)

1. Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
2. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
3. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
4. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
5. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
6. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
7. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.
8. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
9. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.
10. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.
11. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.
12. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

O' Little Town of Bethlehem

[Words by: Phillips Brooks, 1867 / Music by: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868 (Public Domain)]

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep,
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God, the King, and peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, Descend on us we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Emmanuel.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Micah 5:2

Away In A Manger

*[Words by: Stanzas 1 & 2, anonymous, 1885; stanza 3, John Thomas McFarland (1851-1913),
Music by: James Ramsey Murray, 1887 (Public Domain)]*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

3. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.
2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
16. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
19. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

What Child Is This?

[Words by: William Chatterton Dix, 1865 / Music by: 16th Century English melody (Public Domain)]

1. What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and mule are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here
The silent word is pleading.

3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of Kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

CHORUS:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the son of Mary.

The First Noel

[Traditional English (Public Domain)]

1. The First Noel, the Angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

2. They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the East beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

3. And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far.
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both pause and stay,
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee.
And offered there in His presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

[Words by: Issac Watts, 1709 / Music by: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789 (Public Domain)]

**1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

**2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats,
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds,
The blessed angels sing.**

**3. And ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way,
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours,
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.**

**4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own,
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song,
Which now the angels sing.**

What is love?

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10 NIV).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18 KJV).

The Old Rugged Cross

[George Bennard, 1913 (Public Domain)]

1. On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross,
Where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me.
For the dear Lamb of God
Left his glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

3. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me someday
To my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Chorus:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
'Til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:8

Jesus Paid It All

[Words by: Elvina Mable Hall, 1865 / Music by: John T. Grape, 1868 (Public Domain)]

1. I hear the Savior say,
“Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray;
Find in Me thine all in all.”

2. Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow’r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper’s spots
And melt the heart of stone.

3. For nothing good have I,
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I’ll wash my garments white,
In the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb.

4. And when before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,”
My lips shall still repeat.

CHORUS:

Jesus paid it all; All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.

The Perfect Gift

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17 NIV).

When Jesus came to earth as a man and suffered and died on the cross so that you could be reconciled to God, He had you in mind, even though He had not created you yet. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:24-27 NIV).

The greatest gift God gave to you was Himself, the greatest gift you can give God is yourself. The reason God gave you life is so that you would have something precious to give back to Him. Our God is full of compassion and He loves to give, God is thinking about you continuously all day and night, He is constantly giving to you, every breath you take is a gift from God.

“How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning, you are still with me!” (Psalms 139:17-18 NLT)

“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."” (Lamentations 3:21-24 NIV)

My Jesus, I Love Thee

[Words by: William Ralph Featherstone, 1864 / Music by: Adoniram Judson Gordon, 1876 (Public Domain)]

1. My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2. I love Thee because Thou has first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3. I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow.
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

[Words by: Elisha Albright Hoffman, 1887, / Music by: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887 (Public Domain)]

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. Oh, how sweet to walk, in this pilgrim-way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms,
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Chorus:

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*The eternal God is your Refuge, and under-neath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

[Words by: Henry Jackson van Dyke, 1907 / Music by: Ludwig van Beethoven (Public Domain)]

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

Praise Him! Praise Him!

[Words by: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869 / Music by: Chester G. Allen (Public Domain)]

1. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! hail Him! highest archangels in glory;
Strength and honor give to His holy Name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,
In His arms He carries them all day long.

2. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died.
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
Hail Him! hail Him! Jesus the Crucified.
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.

3. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

Chorus:

**Praise Him! Praise Him!
Tell of His excellent greatness.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Ever in joyful song!**

Go Tell It On The Mountain

[Words by: John Wesley Work, Jr., 1907 / Music by: African-American spiritual (Public Domain)]

Chorus:

Go tell it on the Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the Mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching,
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold! Throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus,
That hailed our Savior's birth.

3. Down in a lowly manger,
The humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

4. Now when I was a seeker,
I sought both night and day,
I asked the Lord to help me,
And He showed me the way.

5. The Lord made me a watchman,
Upon a city wall,
And I know I'm a Christian,
But I'm the least of all.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

[Traditional English (Public Domain)]

1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior, was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray:

2. In Bethlehem, in Jewry, this blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger, upon this blessed morn;
That which His Mother Mary, did nothing take in scorn,

3. From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds, brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born, The Son of God by name:

4. The shepherds at those tidings, rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway, this blessed Babe to find:

5. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace.
This holy tide of Christmas, all others doth deface:

Chorus:

***O' tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O' tidings of comfort and joy.***

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

[Words by: Traditional English carol from the West Country of England (Public Domain)]

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring,
To you and your kin,
Good tidings for Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

Philippians 4:4-9 (NASB)

- ◆ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
- ◆ Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- ◆ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- ◆ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- ◆ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure,, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.
- ◆ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

[Words by: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow / Music by: John Baptiste Calkin, 1872 (Public Domain)]

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

2. And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

3. Till ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

4. And in despair I bowed my head
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

5. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

[Words: Charles Wesley, 1744 / Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830 (Tune: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus) (Public Domain)]

**1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

Cradled in a Manger, Meanly

[Words: George S. Rowe (1830-1913) / Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830 (Tune: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus) (Public Domain)]

**1. Cradled in a manger, meanly,
Laid the Son of Man His head;
Sleeping His first earthly slumber
Where the oxen had been fed.
Happy were those shepherds listening
To the holy angel's word;
Happy they within that stable
Worshipping their infant Lord.**

**2. Happy all who hear the message
Of His coming from above;
Happier still who hail His coming,
And with praises greet His love.
Blessed Savior, Christ most holy,
In a manger Thou didst rest;
Canst Thou stoop again, yet lower,
And abide within my breast?**

**3. Evil things are there before Thee;
In the heart, where they have fed,
Wilt Thou pitifully enter,
Son of Man, and lay Thy head?
Enter, then, O Christ most holy;
Make a Christmas in my heart;
Make a heaven of my manger:
It is heaven where Thou art.**

**4. And to those who never listened
To the message of Thy birth,
Who have winter, but no Christmas
Bringing them Thy peace on earth,
Send to these the joyful tidings;
By all people, in each home,
Be there heard the Christmas anthem;
Praise to God, the Christ has come!**

Oh Christmas Tree

[Traditional German "Oh Tannenbaum"; Translated by Charles J.F. Cofone and Stanley Appelbaum (Public Domain)]

**1. Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Oh tree of green unchanging.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Oh tree of green unchanging.
Your boughs, so green in summertime,
Do brave the snow of wintertime.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
A tree of green, unchanging.**

**2. Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You set my heart a-singing,
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You set my heart a-singing,
Like little stars, your candles bright,
Send to the world a wondrous light.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You set my heart a-singing.**

**3. Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You come from God, eternal.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You come from God, eternal.
A symbol of the Lord of love,
Whom God to man sent from above.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You come from God, eternal.**

**4. Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You speak of God unchanging.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You speak of God unchanging.
You tell us all to faithful be,
And trust in God eternally.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You speak of God, unchanging.**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

[Words by: Christopher Wordsworth, 1862 / Music: George Job Elvey, 1858 (Tune: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come) (Public Domain)]

**1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana, wedding guest,
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**3. Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**4. Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee,
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign:
All will then the trumpet hear;
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.**

I Cannot Tell Why

[Words by: William Young Fullerton (1857-1932) / Music: Traditional Irish melody (Public Domain)]

**1. I cannot tell why He Whom angels worship,
Should set His love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,
To bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary
When Bethlehem's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and labored,
And so the Savior, Savior of the world is come.**

**2. I cannot tell how silently He suffered,
As with His peace He graced this place of tears,
Or how His heart upon the cross was broken,
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, He heals the brokenhearted,
And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,
For yet the Savior, Savior of the world is here.**

**3. I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
How He will claim His earthly heritage,
How satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of East and West, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendor
When He the Savior, Savior of the world is known.**

**4. I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
And myriad, myriad human voices sing,
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
At last the Savior, Savior of the world is King!**

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

[Words: African-American Spiritual / Music: African-American Spiritual (Public Domain)]

1. There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

2. If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

CHORUS:

Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

There's a Song in the Air

[Words by: Josiah Gilbert Holland, 1872 / Music by: Karl Pomeroy Harrington, 1904 (Public Domain)]

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

2. There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet Boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! The star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

3. In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;
And that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

4. We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! We shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

[Words: Unknown, 9th Century; translated from Latin to English by John M. Neale, 1851/Music: 15th Century French melody(Public Domain)]

1. O come, O Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

3. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

4. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

5. O come, Thou key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

6. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

CHORUS:

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Angels from the Realm of Glory

[Words by: James Montgomery, 1816 / Music by: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867 (Public Domain)]

1. Angels from the realm of glory,
Wing our flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim the Messiah's birth.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light.

3. Though an infant now we view Him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down.

4. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar,
Seek the great Desire of Nations;
Ye have seen his natal star.

5. Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly, the Lord descending,
In his temple shall appear.

6. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.

CHORUS:

Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

[Words by: Heinrich Suso (? – 1366); Translated from Latin to English by John Mason Neale, 1853; (Public Domain)]
[Music by: 14th Century German melody (Public Domain)]

1. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
 Ox and ass before Him bow; and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
 He has opened the heavenly door, and man is blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

“Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God.” “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.” (John 3:3-8, NLT) “And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:14-18, NLT)

O Holy Night

[Words by: Placide Clappeau, 1847; translated from French to English by John Sullivan Dwight (1812-1893) (Public Domain)]

[Music by: Adolphe C. Adam (1803-1856) (This is said to have been the first music ever broadcast over a radio) (Public Domain)]

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend!

3. Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name!

Chorus:

**Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

The Truth about The Truth

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.”
(John 14:6, ESV)

Truth corresponds to reality. Truth can also be expressed as “Fidelity to the original” or “Fidelity to a standard”.



How do our lives correspond to Jesus? How do our lives measure up to Jesus? We should be looking to Jesus as our measuring stick, standard and plumb line for life – because He is The Life and The Way to eternal life in heaven.

Many other religions say that Jesus was a good teacher, but not God. How could He be a good teacher when He claimed to be God? C.S. Lewis correctly observed, “He is either Lord, a lunatic, or a liar.”

If there is no truth there is no God. And if there is no truth:

- There would be no right or wrong; there is no law or sin; no goodness or badness. Without truth there is no oppression or justice, nothing holy or profane, no one that speaks the truth or speaks a lie. As a matter of fact, without truth we should not understand each other (as we translate language into meaningful sounds or written text that corresponds to something we take as a shared truth – if I say I do not speak English, it should readily be seen as a lie, as it does not correspond to reality, as I just spoke it in English).
- To say “there is no truth” is an **affront and attack upon God, because God is Truth**. That person is a fool (or insane person) – one that does not believe in God. The beginning of wisdom is to fear God. In the beginning was the Truth.

The truth is not a nebulous philosophical thing, but a knowable personable God wanting to be your Savior and Lord. **“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”** (1 John 5:12, NIV)

Have you made your peace with the Lord Jesus Christ?

The world's peace is different from God's peace. The world's is external and depends on feelings and tries to control; but God's peace is internal, dependant on trust, and lets go by trusting God to control.

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (John 14:27, NASB)

Two Aspects of Peace:

1. Peace **WITH** God (Reconciliation/Relationship)
 - a. “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:1, ESV)
2. Peace **OF** God (Inner calmness & inner harmony)
 - a. “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, NASB)
 - b. “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:7, ESV)

We cannot have peace **OF** God until we first have peace **WITH** God. Keep your emotional and spiritual doors locked and allow the peace of God to guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Then no matter what the “tornados of life” may bring, we can dwell in the eye of the storm and for this present day we can savor every drop of happiness it provides. Worry does not help tomorrow's troubles, but it does ruin today's happiness. “Throw the whole of your anxiety upon Him, because He Himself cares for you.”(1 Peter 5:7, Weymouth New Testament)



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