



December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

.....

-PRELUDE-

"Joy in the Morning" – N. Sleeth

Brenda Gardiner

-WELCOME-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY.

THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE,
THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE,
EVERY HEART, EVERY VOICE ON THAT DAY WILL REJOICE,
THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

Thank you, God, for all that you've given us;
YOUR GIFTS FAR EXCEED ANY EARTHLY THING.

Over and over again, we see your gift
reflected in the compassion and good deeds of others;
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE GIFTS WE'VE KNOWN.

Help us, O God, to be givers of
your Love, Hope, Peace, and Joy in our world;
HELP US TO CARRY YOUR GIFTS WITHIN US,
AND GIVE TO OTHERS IT AS THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US.
AMEN!

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE,
THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE,

AND THE WAY OF THE LORD WILL THAT DAY BE RESTORED,
THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE.

FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY.

-CHRISTMAS EVE GREETING-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O Come, All You Faithful"

O COME, ALL YOU FAITHFUL,
JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT,
O COME NOW, O COME NOW TO BETHLEHEM.
COME AND BEHOLD THE RULER OF THE ANGELS:
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
O COME LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!

-SCRIPTURE-

Matthew 1: 18-24 (CEB)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

²³ Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means "God with us.")

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL,
AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL
THAT MOURNS IN LONELY EXILE HERE,
UNTIL THE CHILD OF GOD APPEAR.

REJOICE! REJOICE!
EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO YOU, O ISRAEL!

REJOICE! REJOICE!
EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO YOU, O ISRAEL!

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 2: 1-14 (CEB)

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH,
SWEETLY SINGING O'ER THE PLAINS,
AND THE MOUNTAINS IN REPLY,
ECHO BACK THEIR JOYOUS STRAINS.

GLO - - - - RIA
IN EXCELSIS DEO,
GLO - - - - RIA
IN EXCELSIS DEO.

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 2: 15-20 (CEB)

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰

The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Everything happened just as they had been told.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
SHEPHERDS, WHY THIS JUBILEE?
WHY YOUR JOYOUS STRAINS PROLONG?
SAY WHAT MAY THE TIDINGS BE,
WHICH INSPIRE YOUR HEAVENLY SONG.

GLO - - - - RIA
IN EXCELSIS DEO.
GLO - - - - RIA
IN EXCELSIS DEO.

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 2: 21-35 (CEB)

²¹ *When eight days had passed, Jesus’ parents circumcised him and gave him the name Jesus. This was the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived.* ²² *When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (²³ It’s written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.”)* ²⁴ *They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what’s stated in the Law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

²⁵ *A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.* ²⁶ *The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn’t die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.* ²⁷ *Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus’ parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law.* ²⁸ *Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,*

²⁹ *“Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,* ³⁰ *because my eyes have seen your salvation.* ³¹ *You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.* ³² *It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel.”*

³³ *His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him.* ³⁴ *Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too.”*

-SINGING TOGETHER-

“Come, O Long Expected Jesus”
COME, O LONG EXPECTED JESUS,
BORN TO SET YOUR PEOPLE FREE.
FROM OUR FEARS AND SINS RELEASE US;
CHRIST, IN WHOM OUR REST SHALL BE.
YOU, OUR STRENGTH AND CONSOLATION,
COME SALVATION TO IMPART;
DEAR DESIRE OF MANY A NATION,
JOY OF MANY A LONGING HEART.

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 2: 36-38 (CEB)

³⁶ *There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. ³⁷ She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

BORN YOUR PEOPLE TO DELIVER,
BORN A CHILD, AND YET A KING,
BORN TO REIGN IN US FOREVER,
BORN YOUR GRACIOUS REALM TO BRING.
BY YOUR OWN ETERNAL SPIRIT
RULE IN ALL OUR HEARTS ALONE;
BY YOUR ALL-SUFFICIENT MERIT
RAISE US TO YOUR GLORIOUS THRONE.

-SCRIPTURE-

Matthew 2: 1-6 (CEB)

¹ *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."*

³ *When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:*

⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel."*

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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.

-SCRIPTURE-

Matthew 2: 7-18 (CEB)

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

¹³ When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." ¹⁴ Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. ¹⁵ He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I have called my son out of Egypt.

¹⁶ When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

¹⁸ A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and much grieving. Rachel weeping for her children, and she did not want to be comforted, because they were no more.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"What Child is This"

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?
THIS, THIS, THE ANGELS SING,
IS CHRIST, GOD'S HOLY OFFERING;
HASTE, HASTE, YOUR PRAISE TO BRING
THE BABE, THE CHILD OF MARY!

-SCRIPTURE-

Matthew 2: 19-23 (CEB)

¹⁹ After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰ "Get up," the angel said, "and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead." ²¹ Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee.

²³ *He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled:
He will be called a Nazarene.*

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"The First Noel"

NOEL, NOEL,
NOEL, NOEL,
BORN IN A MANGER, EMMANUEL.

NOEL, NOEL,
NOEL, NOEL,
BORN IS THE KING OF ISRAEL.

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 2: 39-40 (CEB)

³⁹ *When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰ The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.*

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"The First Noel"

NOEL, NOEL,
NOEL, NOEL,
BORN IN A MANGER, EMMANUEL.

-COMMUNION-

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" – arr. B. Jacobsen

-CHRISTMAS EVE BLESSING-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Silent Night"

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.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT,
SHEPHERDS SHAKE AT THE SIGHT,
GLORIES STREAM FROM HEAVEN AFAR,
HEAVENLY HOSTS SING ALLELUIA;
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN,
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT,
CHILD OF GOD, LOVE'S PURE LIGHT,
RADIANT BEAMS FROM YOUR HOLY FACE
BRING THE DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE;
JESUS, LORD AT YOUR BIRTH,
JESUS, LORD AT YOUR BIRTH.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy to the World"

JOY TO THE WORLD!
THE LORD IS COME:
LET EARTH ITS PRAISES BRING;
LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM,
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING,
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING,
AND HEAVEN, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!

JOY TO THE EARTH!
THE SAVIOR REIGNS!
LET ALL THEIR SONGS EMPLOY;
WHILE FIELDS AND FLOODS,
ROCKS, HILLS, AND PLAINS
REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY,
REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY,
REPEAT, REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY.

CHRIST LOVES THE WORLD
WITH TRUTH AND GRACE,
AND MAKES THE NATIONS PROVE
THE GLORIES OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND WONDERS OF GOD'S LOVE,
AND WONDERS OF GOD'S LOVE,
AND WONDERS, AND WONDERS OF GOD'S LOVE.