

Tell Me the Story of Jesus—December's Hymn of the Month 2020

By

Bill Dagle

It's that time of the year again when we bring out the boxes of decorations, tramp out into the deep forest for the perfect Christmas tree, and wrap those precious gifts to put under the tree. Then, we anxiously wait for the arrival of December 25th with all the joy it will bring—especially, if you are twelve or younger. Of course, a little snow goes a long way for putting all of us the spirit. As Bing used to sing, "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." Oh yes, Christmas music. We must not forget all these wonderful songs that prepare us for the holiday. As a matter of fact, if you are a writer of song, you must have at least one Christmas song to your credit. Plus, every artist who is an artist has to have their own Christmas album.

For 2020, we have been sharing the songs of one of the most prolific song writers of all times, Fanny Crosby. Even though blind from the age of six months, in her ninety-four and a half years, she would go down in history as the author of over 8,000 hymns. That is quite a list of songs covering many truths of scripture. When you sing a Fanny Crosby song, you are singing the Bible. So did Fanny write a Christmas song? Well, yes and no. Let me explain. With William Doane, she wrote Santa Claus' Home of the Christmas Excursion, a Christmas cantata. Yet there doesn't appear to be any hymn that we could call a Christmas hymn even though most of her songs center around the reason for Christmas, that is Jesus. Being a student of the Word, Fanny knew that the Bible never tells us to remember His birth, but it does tell us to remember His death. "Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) All of Fanny's songs point us to the Savior born in Bethlehem. There is no doubt that Fanny loved her Lord and enjoyed writing about Him. Still no Christmas hymn or is there?

In my humble opinion, **Tell Me the Story of Jesus** comes as close to being a Fanny Crosby Christmas hymn as you can get. I love that line, "Tell how the angels in chorus sang as they welcomed His birth, 'Glory to God on the highest, peace and good tidings to earth.'" Again, the words are loaded with scripture and proclaim a Christmas message. In fact, this hymn includes Christ's birth, death, resurrection, and the promise of His return. What a Christmas hymn! Fanny never produced a Christmas album, however. She sought no fame or money. She simply wanted to serve her Lord and be a soul winner. Christmas comes and goes each year. We will pack the decorations back up, take the tree out to the curb, and play with the toys till the batteries run dry. Please don't miss the true reason for Christmas. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." May God bless you with a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"Thanks for visiting Hymn Stories this year."

Bill Dagle

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,

Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past,
How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labor,
Tell of the sorrow He bore;
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected and poor.

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see;
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,
“Love paid the ransom for me.”

Tell how He’s gone back to heaven,
Up to the right hand of God:
How He is there interceding
While on this earth we must trod.
Tell of the sweet Holy Spirit
He has poured out from above;
Tell how He’s coming in glory
For all the saints of His love.