



Do You Hear What I Hear?

The Songs of Christmas

The Christmas Story is full of singing. Over the centuries we've continued to celebrate with songs of our own, songs born from the joy of Christ's coming.

This holy season, to prepare our hearts again for the coming of Christ, we'll reflect on the poetry of these meaningful songs. Some will be old friends. Others will be new. May their beauty and power draw you close to Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, the Risen King.

From your friends at

Coronado Community United Methodist Church, Sarasota

201 S Peninsula Ave, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

(386) 428-6252

<https://www.coronadoumc.org/>

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Suggestions for Reflection

Find a quiet place to sit. Take a couple of deep breaths.

Read the song lyrics several times slowly, savoring the words.

Ask yourself:

What is the big idea?

Why is it important?

How does this truth connect with my life?

Have a conversation with God about this truth.

Invite God to use this truth to birth something new in you this holy season.

Additional Ideas:

Journal your reflections on the same page as the lyrics or in a separate notebook

Draw, paint, or create some other kind of art based on your reflections

Locate and write down scripture references which come mind

Write a prayer based on the lyrics

Sing or listen to the song

Share the song or just the lyrics on social media or face to face

Notes:

Sundays are set aside for corporate worship and rest. No song lyrics are supplied for Sundays.

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Christmas Events at Coronado Community UMC

You and those you love are always welcome!

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 12 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

A joyous, beautiful celebration of Christmas by our Chancel Choir

Service of the Longest Night

Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

A simple Christmas service especially for those hurting during the holidays. Some are mourning the death of a loved one, some are far from home, illness, addiction, divorce, loneliness, finances, conflict... whatever reason you're struggling, you are not alone.

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24 at 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Favorite Carols, Candle Lighting, and Communion
Everyone is welcome to participate in Communion

Christmas Sunday Service

Sunday, December 26 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

New Year's Sunday Service

Sunday, January 2 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

For more information

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November 29: Joy to the World

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 nature sing.

Joy to the world, 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 the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows 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 the curse is found.

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 of his love.

~ Isaac Watts

November 30: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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.

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.

~ Charles Wesley

December 1: Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.

Then stepped forth the Lord of all from His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.

For You are the Father's Son who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole all our ills of flesh and soul.

From the manger newborn light shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be now and through eternity.

~ St. Ambrose

December 2: Blessed Be the God of Israel

Blessed be the God of Israel
Who comes to set us free
Who visits and redeems us
And grants us liberty
The prophets spoke of mercy
Of freedom and release
God shall fulfill the promise
To bring our people peace

Now from the house of David
A child of grace is given
A Savior comes among us
To raise us up to heaven
Before Him goes His herald
Forerunner in the way
The prophet of salvation
The harbinger of day

On prisoners of darkness
The sun begins to rise
The dawning of forgiveness
Upon the sinner's eyes
To guide the feet of pilgrims
Along the paths of peace
Oh bless our God and Savior
With songs that never cease

~ Michael Perry
CCLI Song # 2627452

December 3: Noel

Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore

Noel! Noel!
Come and see what God has done
Noel! Noel!
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel!

Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore

Noel! Noel!
Come and see what God has done
Noel! Noel!
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel!

~ Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman
CCLI Song # 7050419

December 4: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains,
Shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever;
That name to us is love.

~ James Montgomery

December 5: Worship and Rest

December 6: O Holy Night

common and literal translation from the French

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

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 come the wise men
 from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need,
 to our weaknesses no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

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.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Midnight, Christians, is the solemn hour,
When God as man descended unto us
To erase the stain of original sin
And to end the wrath of His Father.
The entire world thrills with hope
On this night that gives it a Saviour.
People, kneel down, await your deliverance.
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

May the ardent light of our Faith
Guide us all to the cradle of the infant,
As in ancient times a brilliant star
Guided the Oriental kings there.
The King of Kings
 was born in a humble manger;
O mighty ones of today,
 proud of your greatness,
It is to your pride that God preaches.
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!

The Redeemer has broken every bond:
The Earth is free, and Heaven is open.
He sees a brother
 where there was only a slave,
Love unites those that iron had chained.
Who will tell Him of our gratitude,
For all of us He is born, He suffers and dies.
People, stand up! Sing of your deliverance,
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer!

~ Placide Cappeau

December 7: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be
Before thee rulers silent fall all peoples on thy mercy call
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free and conquer death's deep misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one the heart and mind
From dust thou brought us forth to life, deliver us from earthly strife
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

~ 9th Century Latin

December 8: A Strange Way to Save the World

I'm sure he must have been surprised
At where this road had taken him
'Cause never in a million lives
Would he have dreamed of Bethlehem
And standing at the manger
He saw with his own eyes
The message from the angel come to life
And Joseph said

Why me I'm just a simple man of trade
Why Him with all the rulers in the world
Why here inside this stable filled with hay
Why her she's just an ordinary girl
Now I'm not one to second guess
What angels have to say
But this is such a strange way to save the world

To think of how it could have been
If Jesus had come as He deserved
There would have been no Bethlehem
No lowly shepherds at His birth
But Joseph knew the reason
Love had to reach so far
And as he held the Savior in his arms
He must have thought

Why me I'm just a simple man of trade
Why Him with all the rulers in the world
Why here inside this stable filled with hay
Why her she's just an ordinary girl
Now I'm not one to second guess
What angels have to say
But this is such a strange way to save the world

~ Dave Clark, Don Koch, Mark Harris
CCLI Song # 1170127

December 9: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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 fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

~ Anonymous

December 10: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

~ James Montgomery

December 11: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: 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!

~ 14th Century Latin

December 12: Worship and Rest

December 13: 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.

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

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to 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!

~ Phillips Brooks

December 14: Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

~ Cecil Frances Alexander

December 15: Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, shy this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise,
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

~ Traditional French Carol

December 16: Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light and usher in the morning
You shepherds shrink not with affright but hear the angel's warning
This Child now weak in infancy
Our confidence and joy shall be
The power of Satan breaking
Our peace eternal making

This night of wonder, night of joy, was born the Christ our brother
He comes, not mighty to destroy, to bid us love each other
How could He quit His kingly state
For such a world of greed and hate?
What deep humiliation
Secured the world's salvation

Come dearest Child into our hearts and leave Your crib behind You
Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find You
To You be honor thanks and praise
For all Your gifts this time of grace
Come, conquer and deliver
This world and us forever

~ Johann Rist

December 17: Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown
When Thou camest to earth for me
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room
For Thy holy nativity
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for Thee

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang
Proclaiming Thy royal degree
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth
And in great humility
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for Thee

The foxes found rest and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree
But Thy couch was the sod O Thou Son of God
In the deserts of Galilee
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for Thee

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word
That should set Thy people free
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn
They bore Thee to Calvary
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for Thee

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing
At Thy coming to victory
Let Thy voice call me home saying, "yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee"
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus
When Thou comest and callest me

~ Timothy Richard Matthews

December 18: Candlelight Carol

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother?
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born

~ John Rutter

December 19: Worship and Rest

December 20: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King

Christ, by highest heav'n adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun 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.

Come, Desire of nations, come! Fix in us Thy humble home:
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed, bruise in us the serpent's head;
Adam's likeness now efface, stamp Thine image in its place:
Final Adam from above, reinstate us in Thy love.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.

~ Charles Wesley

December 21, The Longest Night: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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.

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.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

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.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo!, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

~ Edmund Sears

December 22: Joseph's Song

How could it be this baby in my arms
Sleeping now so peacefully
"The Son of God" the angel said
How could it be?

Lord I know He's not my own
Not of my flesh, not of my bones
Still Father let this baby be
The Son of my love

Father show me where I fit into this plan of Yours
How can a man be a father to the Son of God?
Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a King?
How can I raise a King?

He looks so small. His face and hands so fair
And when He cries
The sun just seems to disappear
But when He laughs it shines again
How could it be?

Father show me where I fit into this plan of Yours
How can a man be a father to the Son of God?
Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a King?
How can I raise a King?

~ Michael Card
CCLI Song # 70871

December 23: Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy Father you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now

Breath of heaven hold me together
Be forever near me, Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness, for you are holy
Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong
Help me be
Help me

Breath of heaven hold me together
Be forever near me, Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness, for you are holy
Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven

~ Chris Eaton and Amy Lee Grant
CCLI Song # 1128784

December 24, Christmas Eve: 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 quake 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,
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.

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

~ Joseph Mohr

December 25, Christmas Day: O Come All Ye Faithful

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.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten not created;
 O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens 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.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
 O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
 O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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.

~ John F. Wade

December 26: Worship and Rest

December 27: Labor of Love

It was not a silent night
There was blood on the ground
You could hear a woman cry in the alleyway that night
On the streets of David's town

And the stable was not clean
And the cobblestones were cold
And little Mary full of grace with the tears upon her face
Had no mother's hand to hold

It was a labor of pain
It was a cold sky above
But for the girl on the ground in the dark
With every beat of her beautiful heart
It was a labor of love

Noble Joseph by her side
Callused hands and weary eyes
There were no midwives to be found on the streets of David's town
In the middle of the night

So he held her and he prayed
Shafts of moonlight on his face
But the baby in her womb
He was the Maker of the moon
He was the Author of the faith that could make the mountains move

For little Mary full of grace
With the tears upon her face
It was a labor of love

~Andrew Peterson
CCLI Song # 4618256

December 28: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground;
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all of humankind,
To all of humankind."

"To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign,
And this shall be the sign:"

"The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God on high,
Who thus addressed their song,
Who thus addressed their song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to earth
Begin and never cease,
Begin and never cease!"

~ Nahum Tate

December 29: In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

~ Christina Rossetti

December 30: Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source the ending He
Of the things that are that have been and that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore

At His word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one
All that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun
Evermore and evermore

This is he whom heav'n taught singers sang of old with one accord
Who the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word
Now he shines the long expected let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore

O that birth forever blessed when the virgin full of grace
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore

O ye heights of heaven adore Him, angel-hosts His praises sing
Powers dominions bow before Him and extol our God and King
Let no tongue on earth be silent every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be
Honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory
Evermore and evermore

~ Aurelius Clemens Prudentius

December 31, New Year's Eve: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

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!

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!

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!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound the carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent the hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn the households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

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!"

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."

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

January 1, New Year's Day: 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?

Refrain:

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

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

~ William C. Dix

January 2: Worship and Rest

January 3: There's a Song in the Air

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!

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!

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!

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!

~ Josiah G. Holland

January 4: I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God set the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus
In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God
I want to look at Jesus
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father
In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus

I'm looking for the coming of Christ
I want to follow Jesus
When we have run with patience the race
We shall know the joy of Jesus
In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus

~ Kathleen Thomerson
CCLI Song # 89848

January 5: One Small Child

One small Child in a land of a thousand
One small dream of a Savior tonight
One small hand reaching out to the starlight
One small city of life

One king bringing his gold and riches
One king ruling an army of might
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight
One King bringing us life

See Him lying a cradle beneath Him
See Him smiling in the stall
See His mother praising His Father
See His tiny eyelids fall

One small light from the flame of a candle
One small light from a city of might
One small light from the stars in the endless night
One small light from a face

See the shepherds kneeling before Him
See the kings on bended knee
See His mother praising His Father
See the blessed Infant sleep

One small Child in a land of a thousand
One small dream in a people of might
One small hand reaching out to the starlight
One small Savior of life

~David Meece
CCLI Song # 10783

January 6, Epiphany: O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him: the Lord is His name!

Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on His heart He will bear it for thee,
And comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;
For truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on His shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him: the Lord is His name!

~ John S. B. Monsell

