



## CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24, 2020

### REFLECTIONS

“Enemy-occupied territory — that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.”

C.S. LEWIS | *MERE CHRISTIANITY*

“For the solidarity of mankind is such that, by virtue of the Word’s indwelling in a single human body, the corruption which goes with death has lost its power over all...He has come into our country and dwelt in one body amidst the many, and in consequence the designs of the enemy against mankind have been foiled and the corruption of death, which formerly held them in its power, has simply ceased to be. For the human race would have perished utterly had not the Lord and Savior of all, the Son of God, come among us to put an end to death.

ST. ATHANASIUS | *ON THE INCARNATION*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David.  
**All For to us a child is born, to us a son is given!**  
Leader Alleluia! Our King and Savior draws near!  
**People Let earth receive her King!**

### SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

#### JOY TO THE WORLD / ISAAC WATTS

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| <p>1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br/>Let earth receive her King;<br/>let every heart prepare Him room,<br/>and heaven and nature sing,<br/>and heaven and nature sing,<br/>and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!</p> <p>2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!<br/>Let men their songs employ;<br/>while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br/>nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>he comes to make His blessings flow<br/>far as the curse is found,<br/>far as the curse is found,<br/>far as, far as the curse is found.</p> <p>4. He rules the world with truth and grace,<br/>and makes the nations prove<br/>the glories of His righteousness,<br/>and wonders of His love,<br/>and wonders of His love,<br/>and wonders, wonders of His love.</p> |
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#### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / JOHN WADE

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| <p>1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,<br/>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;<br/>come and behold Him, born the King of angels;</p> <p><b>REFRAIN</b><br/><i>O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,<br/>O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!</i></p> | <p>2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,<br/>sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;<br/>glory to God, glory in the highest;</p> <p>3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;<br/>Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father,<br/>now in flesh appearing;</p> |
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#### ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH / TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

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| <p>1. Angels we have heard on high<br/>sweetly singing o’er the plains,<br/>and the mountains in reply<br/>echoing their joyous strains.</p> <p><b>REFRAIN</b><br/><i>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!<br/>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</i></p> | <p>2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?<br/>Why your joyous strains prolong?<br/>What the gladsome tidings be<br/>which inspire your heavenly song?</p> <p>3. Come to Bethlehem and see<br/>Christ whose birth the angels sing;<br/>come, adore on bended knee,<br/>Christ the Lord, the newborn King.</p> | <p>4. See Him in a manger laid,<br/>whom the choirs of angels praise;<br/>Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,<br/>while our hearts in love we raise.</p> |
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## THE CHRISTMAS EVE GOSPEL READING

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**Luke 2:8-10** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

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## PRAYER OF ADORATION

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**All** O God, You have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy Him perfectly in heaven; where with You and the Holy Spirit He lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

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## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON

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**GENESIS 3:8-15** *GOD TELLS SINFUL ADAM THAT HE HAS LOST THE LIFE OF PARADISE AND THAT HIS SEED WILL BRUISE THE SERPENT'S HEAD.*

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

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## SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

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### HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING / FRANS MIKAEL FRANZEN

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

2. 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 with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

3. Hail the heav'nly 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 newborn King!"*

### WHAT CHILD IS THIS? / WILLIAM DIX

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?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

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.  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM / PHILLIP BROOKS

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—let "Glory!" ring  
with peace to all on earth!

3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of the heav'ns.  
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 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.

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## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LESSON

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**GENESIS 22:15-18; ISAIAH 9:2; 6-7** *GOD PROMISES ABRAHAM THAT ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED THROUGH HIS FAMILY, AND THE PROPHET FORETELLS THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR.*

Gen. 22: 15 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Is. 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> LESSON

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**ISAIAH 11:1-9** *THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORE SHOWN - THE RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF THE BRANCH OF JESSE*

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand  
on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

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## A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

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*Where do you sense new joy? Where do you feel resistance to the Good News?*

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## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> LESSON

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**MATTHEW 1:18-24** *THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARS TO JOSEPH AND ANNOUNCES THE BIRTH OF JESUS THROUGH THE VIRGIN MARY*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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*As we light the candles, let us remember that Jesus Christ is the light of the world! Let us walk in his light!*

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## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> LESSON

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**LUKE 2:1-12** *ST. LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS & THE SHEPHERDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

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## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> LESSON

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**LUKE 2:13-20** *THE SHEPHERDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST AND VISIT THE NEWBORN KING.*

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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*Let us praise God, for Jesus is the Light of the World, who overcomes all darkness!*

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## THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

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*“Christmas Joy” - Brannin Pitre*

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## THE FINAL LESSON

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**1 JOHN 1:1-4; COLOSSIANS 1:15-20** *ST. JOHN UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD AND ST. PAUL OFFERS PRAISES TO THE RESURRECTED, VICTORIOUS CHRIST.*

<sup>1</sup> <sup>Jn 1:1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we pro-claim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>Col 1:15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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## SONGS OF RESPONSE & REFLECTION

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### THE FIRST NOEL / ANONYMOUS

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain  
poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay tending 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.

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.

4. Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with His blood mankind hath bought.

### SILENT NIGHT / JOSEPH MOHR; TRANS. JANE CAMPBELL

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.

2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born!”

3. 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.

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## BENEDICTION

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Leader Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace. Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope. Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

All **Glory to God in the Highest! Amen! Amen!**

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## CLOSING SONG

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### GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

#### 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 the Savior's birth...
3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn...

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*Join us for online worship on Sunday, 12/27 at 10AM. Also, look for resources for the Epiphany on 1/6 and the season that follows. For more information, visit:*

[WWW.GRACEPASADENA.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEPASADENA.ORG)