

*Anticipating
the
Savior*

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*The Advent Wreath
As a Tool for Worship*

by Laurel Smith

Anticipating the Savior

~

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www.grace-and-glory.net

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Glory to the Lamb.

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Thanks and Credits

New Traditions

An Introduction

Our family comes from a church heritage that does not typically participate in Advent celebrations more common to “high” church traditions. Yet, over the last several years, the use of the Jesse Tree and the Advent Wreath have deepened and enriched our savoring of the Christmas season and of the grand story of Redemption itself.

We have other “Christmas traditions,” but these two Advent traditions have become a priceless part of the season for us. They are tools that we intentionally choose to use to calm and focus our hearts and minds. They make our anticipation and celebration richer and fuller.

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is a tool that traces the Story of Redemption from Creation to the Coming of the Savior. Each day of Advent (or, in our house, as often as we can manage), worshipers look at another thread of the tapestry that the Father wove in preparation for the coming of the Son. It is breathtaking to watch His plan unfold.

Each day, an ornament representing the day’s event is placed on the Jesse Tree. This can be a branch that you stick in a pot, an evergreen tree, or a tree formed on the wall by the ornaments themselves. One year we used a leftover giant campaign sign and painted our tree on the back side. The particulars are not a smidgen as important as the Story.

We have been blessed by an aid for the Jesse Tree from Ann Voskamp at [A Holy Experience](#). If you subscribe to her blog, you will receive a link to her free ebook, *A Jesus Advent Celebration*. It gets right to the heart of the matter, so much so that I struggle to read through without tears of gratitude. I am confident that Ann's book would be a blessing if you'd like to embrace this tracing of the Story.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath makes use of a simple arrangement of candles to highlight various aspects of the coming of the Savior. The basic layout of the Advent wreath is four smaller candles - one for each week of Advent - surrounding a central white candle, the Christ candle, which remains unlit until Christmas Eve or Day.

Each of the four weeks of Advent has a theme, which differ with varying church traditions. During the first week, one of the outer candles is lit nightly as the theme for the week is highlighted. In each of the following weeks, an additional candle is lit, so that in week four, all four outer candles are lit nightly.

The Advent candles are usually entwined with greenery or placed in an actual wreath. Traditionally, three of the outer candles are purple,



while one is pink, to express Joy, a traditional theme for week three. Blue seems to be easier to find than purple in taper candles, which are what we use, so our candles are often blue and pink. Sometimes we use blue and red. Please remember that this is a tool for worship, and the appearance of your wreath and candles is not the heart of the tool. Do what works for you.

Our Advent themes are **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. In the evening after supper, we light the candle(s), read related Scripture, and sing related songs (carols, other hymns, Scripture songs, etc). Because we are not part of a church tradition that uses this tool, we have developed our own eclectic version over the years. It is a time of quiet reflection that helps to ground us during a time of year when it is easy to be distracted.

After several years of collecting Scriptures and songs for our family Advent wreath celebration, I am prayerfully embarking on the adventure of organizing these into a resource to help others who are interested in using the Advent wreath in their worship.

May it bless and edify, and may all glory go to our Creator and Savior.

Notes on Using Anticipating the Savior

My goals for this book are to provide a resource that will

- ~ Aid people from a variety of backgrounds and family situations (from singles to large families) as they seek to focus on the True reason for the season.
- ~ Provide more resources than you might use, but in a format from which it is easy to pick and choose.
- ~ Allow you to easily choose the order in which you would like to arrange the themes.
- ~ Be usable from year to year (not date-specific)

Suggestions

- ~ While you are welcome to print the book as a whole, unless you are planning to bind it or put it in a notebook, you might find it more practical to simply print the pages as needed.
- ~ The weekly themes are arranged how our family has found we like them best: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. Many people order them: Hope, Love, Joy, Peace. Neither weeks nor pages are numbered, so you can seamlessly use them in the order that works for you.

Music notes

- ~ It works well for our family to choose two or three songs to sing per week, especially if we do not already know them.
- ~ I have made an effort to provide music that is in the public domain, so that it can be freely printed. Sources are included, and there are some links for arrangements that you could freely print, but which I could not include in this collection.
- ~ Sources are noted on the music page for each week, with additional source notes for sheet music, where included.
- ~ I would be delighted to receive your suggestions for additional music or Scripture at smith.laurel@gmail.com.

[When Does Advent Begin?](#) Advent “begins on the Sunday nearest November 30, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, and covers four Sundays. Because the day it begins changes from year to year, so does the length of each Advent season. In 2011, Advent begins on November 27.” (see link for more information)

Online Resources

[The Season of Advent: Anticipation and Hope](#) by Dennis Bratcher, Christian Resource Institute – an extensive article including sections on The Colors of Advent, The Spirit of Advent, Evergreens and The Advent Wreath, Celebrating Advent, An Advent Reflection, and Music for Advent

[The History of the Advent Wreath](#) by Fr. William Saunders, Catholic Education Resource Center

[Advent History and Ideas](#) from teachingmom.com

[Advent Wreath page](#) with ideas for making an Advent Wreath

A Week of Hope

Why hope? Because, from the early morning of time, we have desperately needed Hope. As Ann Voskamp says in her book A Jesse Tree Journey, “only two chapters in. And the whole story falls apart.” Thankfully, the next chapter opens with a promise of Hope, found in the first of our Scripture readings for this week.

This week, we focus on Hope - the promises of a coming Savior and the fulfillment of those promises in the Lord Jesus. And we'll even get a hint of promises yet to come, promises made possible by our Savior.

[illegible]

Scripture Readings on Hope

Each section includes prophecies about the coming Savior
and verses about their fulfillment.

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. 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."

Genesis 3:14-15

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.

Matthew 1:18

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

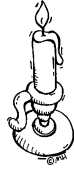


Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3

Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:6-9

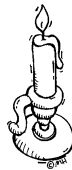


Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:20-23



But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.

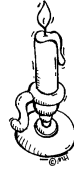
Micah 5:2

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Matthew 2:1-6

"For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born."

John 7:42



The people who walk in darkness will see a great light--a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow.

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this!

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 1:1-18

Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8.12

*When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. **And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.**"*

2 Samuel 7:12-16 - to David, partially fulfilled in Solomon

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Jeremiah 23:5-6

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:30-33

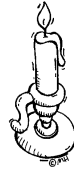


"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

Luke 7:24-30



Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
Psalms 45:6,7

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 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. 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, 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. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Isaiah 11:2

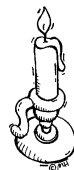
The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
Isaiah 61:1

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4.16-19



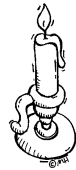
A few prophecies concerning the Savior's redeeming sacrifice -

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Isaiah 53:12

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left."

Luke 23:33

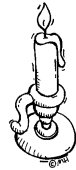


*"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: **and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."*

Zechariah 12:10

"But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."

John 19:33-34



From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Matthew 16:21

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;"

Acts 10:38-40

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1Corinthians 15:3-4

Music of Hope

Online Music Resources

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymnary.org - sheet music

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midis of several alternate tunes

O Come O Come Emmanuel

SongsAndHymns.org - sheet music, mp3 with full vocals, more

All Glory, Laud and Honor

SongsAndHymns.org - sheet music, mp3 with full vocals, more

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi of two tunes

Hymnary.org - sheet music (#9)

Hark! The Glad Sound! The Savior Comes!

*This is an entirely new song to me as of this month. I am including links to several tunes. My suggestion is to find one that is singable for you and your family.


Cyberhymnal.org - extensive lyrics, four tunes and midis

SmallChurchMusic3.com - variety of options for four tunes, including pdf scores (without lyrics)


SheetMusicPlus.com - This choral arrangement by Mary Lynn Lightfoot is my favorite tune for this song. The sheet music must be purchased, however, the website has a lovely mp3 of the arrangement, which might allow you to learn the tune.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 135

I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come . . . Hag. 2:7



1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2. Born thy peo - ple to de-liv - er, born a child and yet a king,




from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.




Is - rael's strength and con-so-la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;




dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Music used by permission of Oxford University Press

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COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Words: Charles Wesley,
Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord (London: William Strahan, 1745), number 10.
Music: Hyfrydol, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

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.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

9th Century Latin, translated by J. M. Neale

J = 115

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra -
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes, on Si - ra's
 3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an -
 4. O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us by Thy draw - ing
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And op - en wide our heav - enly

- el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
 height, In an - cient times didst give the law In cloud and maj - es -
 ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save, And give them vic - tory
 nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark sha - dows
 home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to

Refrain

God ap - pear.
 - ty and awe.
 over the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
 put to flight.
 mis - er - y.

6. 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.
7. 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.

Public Domain, Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal (<http://www.cyberhymnal.org>)

Source - songsandhymns.org

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Words: Latin Hymn, translated by John Mason Neale (1851)

Music: Veni Emmanuel, Plainsong, 13th century

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

Refrain:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

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.

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.



All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ST THEODULPH

Theodulph of Orleans, ca 820

Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615

All glo - ry, laud and hon - or, To Thee, Re - deem - er King, To

whom the lips of chil - dren, Made sweet ho - san - nas ring. Fine

1. Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al
2. The com - pan - y of ang - gels Are prais - ing Thee on
3. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee
4. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of
5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - ses; Ac - cept the prayers we

D.C.
Son, Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and Bless - ed One.
high, And we, will all cre - a - tion, In cho - us make re - ply.
went; Our prayer and praise and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
praise; To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
bring, Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and grac - ious King.

www.songsandhymns.org

Public Domain

Source - songsandhymns.org

ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (820), Translator: John Mason Neale (1854)

Music: ST. THEODULPH, composed by Melchior Tescher (1615)

Refrain

*All glory, laud and honor,
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's Name comest,
The King and Bless'd One.
Refrain

The company of angels
Are praising Thee on High,
And we, with all creation,
In chorus make reply.
Refrain

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our prayer and praise and anthems
Before Thee we present.
Refrain

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.
Refrain

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.
Refrain

HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!

Words: Philip Doddridge, December 28, 1735.

Music: Various

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure;
And with the treasures of His grace
To help the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And Heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved Name.

A Week of Peace

Humanity has longed for peace since the Fall, and the world is filled this season with proclamations of peace. “Peace on earth, good will to men!” we sing. And yet, one does not need to look far to see the lack of peace, from a personal to an international level, in our world today.

Centuries ago, the Jews, in their anticipation of the Messiah, longed for peace on this earth in the form of an earthly Kingdom established by the Messiah. Yet God, in His great wisdom, sent Jesus to first meet the most critical peace-need, that of peace with Him. And amazingly, despite our fallenness, we can have eternal peace with God through Jesus.

Someday, He will return, and set in place the peace-filled Kingdom promised throughout Scripture. What a day that will be! And what a comfort that as we wait, He gives us the gift of heart-peace.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Scripture Readings on Peace



Promises of Peace

He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
Micah 4:3-4

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
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.
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,
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.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
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.
The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
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.
In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.
Isaiah 11:1-10

Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I."
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
The voice of your watchmen--they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
Isaiah 52:6-10

No Peace Because of Sin

But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt.

There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Isaiah 57:20-21

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.

No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.

They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched.

Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands.

Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways.

The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.

Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; we hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

Isaiah 59:1-9



The Bringer of Peace

And his [John's] father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
"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 his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."
Luke 1:67-79



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
Luke 2:1-14

Peace with God



Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned-- for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:1-21

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:25-27

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands-- remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22



He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:13-20

Peace with Others

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.
Never be wise in your own sight.
Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
Romans 12:9-18

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.
Romans 14:17-19

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:11-14



Future Peace

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed-- on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass.

The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,

and its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there.

They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 21:9-27



Music of Peace

Online Music Resources

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com - lyrics, midi, sheet music

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com lyrics, midi, sheet music

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Glory Be to God on High

Nethymnal.org - lyrics, midi (to the tune of *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*)

Carol of Redemption

Nethymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Peace, Perfect Peace

Hymnary.org - sheet music

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Near to the Heart of God

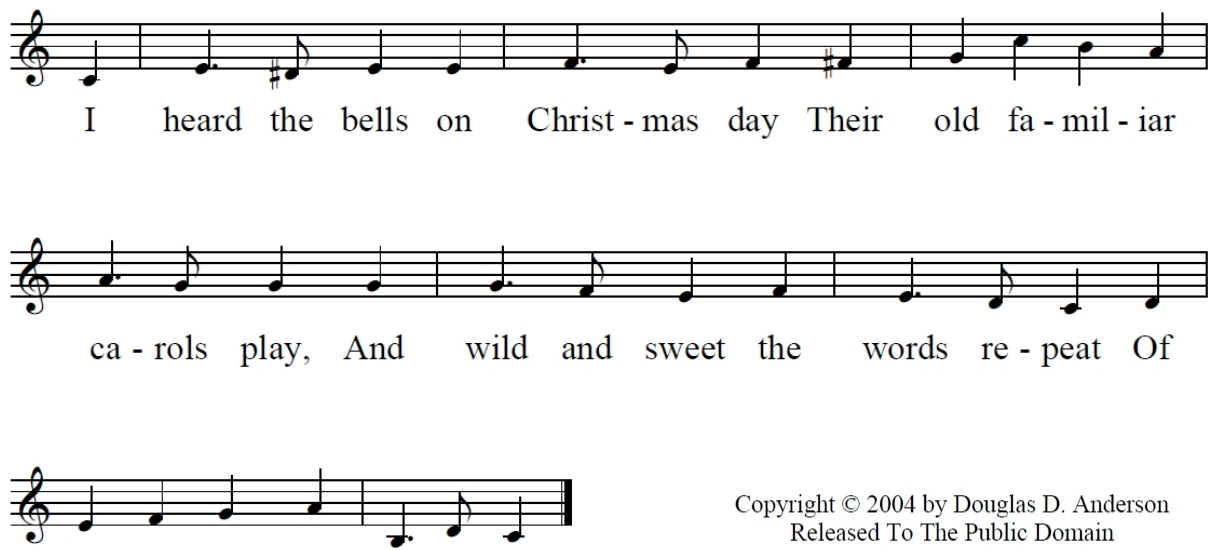
Chordie.com - lyrics, chords

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

John Baptiste Calkin, 1872

Andante (♩ = 105)



I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their old fa - mil - iar
ca - rols play, And wild and sweet the words re - peat Of
peace on earth, good will to men.

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I 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.

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.'

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.

Source - hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1864

Music: WALTHAM (CALKIN), John B. Calkin, 1872

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.

I 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.

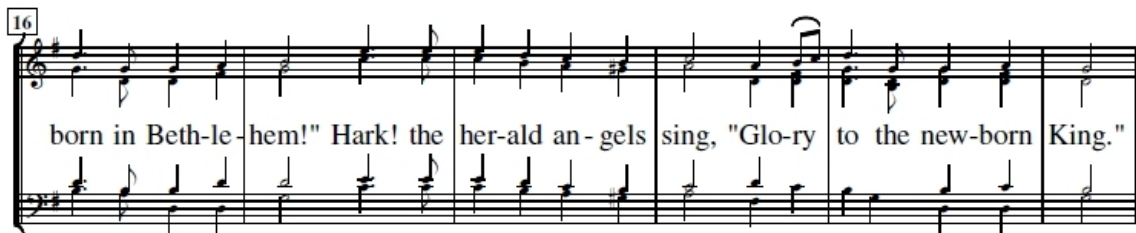
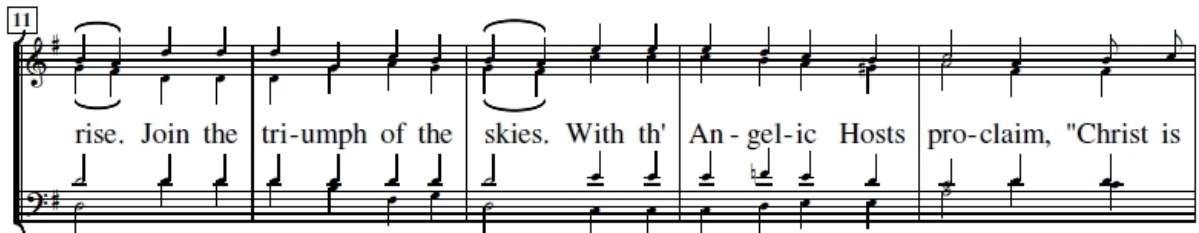
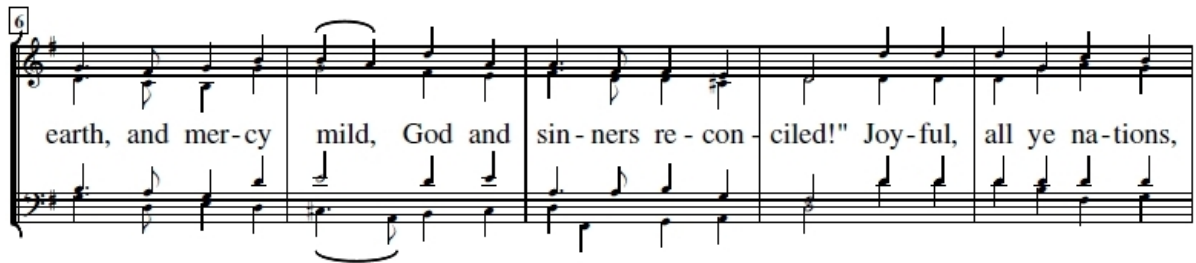
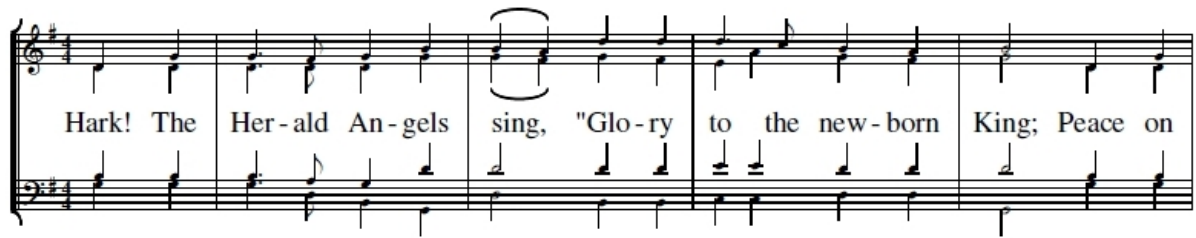
And in despair I bowed my head
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,
'For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

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.'

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.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Adapted from Chorus by F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy



2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting lord
Late in time behold Him come,
Off-spring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate deity
Pleased as Man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the New-born king!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen 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!"

[Source - hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com](http://hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com)

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

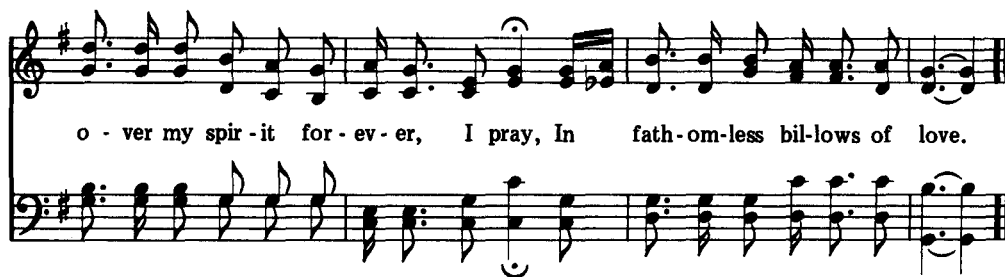
Words: Charles Wesley

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting lord
Late in time behold Him come,
Off-spring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate deity
Pleased as Man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
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,
Risen 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!"



Benediction

579

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

Peace, Perfect Peace 580

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. Isa. 26:3

GEORGE T. CALDBECK

EDWARD H. BICKERSTETH

ARR. CHARLES J. VINCENT

1. Peace, per - fect peace, in this dark world of sin?
 2. Peace, per - fect peace, by throng - ing du - ties pressed?
 3. Peace, per - fect peace, with sor - rows surg - ing round?
 4. Peace, per - fect peace, our fu - ture all un - known?
 5. Peace, per - fect peace, death shad - owing us and ours?
 6. It is e - nough: earth's strug - gles soon shall cease,

The blood of Je - sus whis - pers peace with - in.
 To do the will of Je - sus, this is rest.
 On Je - sus' bos - om naught but calm is found.
 Je - sus we know, and He is on the throne.
 Je - sus has van - quished death and all its powers.
 And Je - sus, call us to heav'n's per - fect peace. A - men.

Music used by permission of the Trustees of Vincent (Hazeon) Trust, England.

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE

Words: Edward H. Bickersteth, Jr., 1875

Music: PAX TECUM, George T. Caldbeck & Charles J. Vincent, 1876

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?

To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.

Peace, perfect peace, with sorrow surging round?

In Jesus's presence nought but calm is found.

Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?

In Jesus's keeping we are safe, and they.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?

Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.

Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?

Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers

It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,

and Jesus call us to heaven's perfect peace.

Near To The Heart of God

1. There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God, A place where sin can - not mo - lest, Near to the heart of God. (C) O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, Sent from the heart of God, Hold us, who wait be - fore Thee, Near to the heart of God.

Chorus

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: C, Dm, G7, C, C7, F, C/E, Am, Dm, G7, C, C7/E, F, Em, Am, Dm/F, G7, C, F/C, C. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 1, 5, 8, and 13 marking the beginning of new lines of music.

2. There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where we our Savior meet,
Near to the heart of God.
3. There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.

NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD

Words & Music: Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God.
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.

Refrain

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God.
A place where we our Savior meet,
Near to the heart of God.

Refrain

There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God.
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH

Words: Charles Wesley

Tune: Ellacombe (I Sing the Mighty Power of God)

Glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth descend;
Now God comes down, He bows the sky,
And shows Himself our Friend!
God the invisible appears,
God the Blest, the Great I AM,
He sojourns in this vale of tears,
And Jesus is His Name.

Him by the angels all adored,
Their Maker and their King;
Lo, tidings of their humbled Lord
They now to mortals bring;
Emptied of His majesty,
Of His dazzling glories shorn,
Our being's Source begins to be,
And God Himself is born!

See the eternal Son of God
A mortal Son of Man,
Now dwelling in an earthly clod
Whom Heaven cannot contain!
Stand amazed, ye heavens, look at this!
See the Lord of earth and skies
Low humbled to the dust He is,
And in a manger lies!

So do the sons of men rejoice
The Prince of Peace proclaim,
With Heaven's host lift up our voice,
And shout Immanuel's Name;
Our knees and hearts to Him we bow;
Of our flesh, and of our bone,
See—Jesus is our Brother now,
And God is all our own!

CAROL OF REDEMPTION

Words: Flora Kirkland
Music: Howard E. Smith

Sung by angels o'er a hillside,
Sending shepherds to a stall,
Rang the carol of redemption,
"Peace on earth"—good will to all.

Refrain

"Peace on earth," O mighty chorus!
Floating down the stream of time,
"Peace on earth," it echoes o'er us,
Ringing still in tones sublime!
"Peace on earth," O mighty chorus!
Floating down the stream of time,
"Peace on earth," it echoes o'er us,
Ringing still in tones sublime!

Hark! We almost hear them singing!
Look! The glory shineth bright!
See the lambs in peaceful slumber
On that blessed, wondrous night.

Refrain

Mighty carol of redemption!
Mighty King in lowly guise!
Quicken now our comprehension,
Help us see with faith's clear eyes.

Refrain

A Week of Joy

Joy! Perhaps the most prevalent theme of the Season. The coming of the Savior makes possible true joy, springing from the gift of reconciliation with our Creator.

John jumped for joy while still in the womb over the coming Christ. The angels proclaimed the good news of great joy, and wise men from the East rejoiced when they came near to the young Savior. Jesus spoke of our joy being made full through Him, and the epistles and the psalms are full of thoughts on joy.

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25

[illegible]

Scripture Readings on Joy



Joy at His Coming

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,
and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,
and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."
Luke 1:39-45

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.
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.*
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
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."
And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.
And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.
And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.
And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
Luke 2:8-20

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:
""And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.""
Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.
And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."
After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.
When they saw the star, *they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*
And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
Matthew 2:1-11



Jesus on Joy

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:4-12

“So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. *Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.

In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;

for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

John 16:22-28



Joy in the Epistles

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,
for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,

begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints-- and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

2Corinthians 8:1-5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:22-26

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, *who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross*, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Hebrews 12:1-3



And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

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.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

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.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:9-20

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

James 1:2-6



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
Though you have not seen him, you love him. *Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,* obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
1Peter 1:3-9

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory *with great joy,*
to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.
Jude 1:24-25



Psalms of Joy

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.
For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.
Psalm 5:11,12

A Miktam of David.

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."
As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.
The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings
of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.
The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be
shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.
You make known to me the path of life; *in your presence there is fullness of joy*; at
your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Psalm 16:1-11



Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten
strings!
Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his
steadfast love,
that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.
Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.
Psalm 33:1-5,18-22

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.
Clap your hands, all peoples! *Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!
God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.
The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the
shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!
Psalm 47:1-9



A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.
O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints
for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and *my mouth will praise you with
joyful lips,*
when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help, and *in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.*
My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.
Psalm 63:1-8

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song.
Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.
O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.
When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.
Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be
satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!
By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the
hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;
the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;
who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the
peoples,
so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make
the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.
You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water;
you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and
blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.
Psalm 65:1-13

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; *my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Psalm 84:1-12



A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; *at the works of your hands I sing for joy.*

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

Psalm 92:1-5

Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Psalm 107:17-22

Music Of Joy

Online Music Resources

How Great Our Joy

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Caltech.edu - chords

TimelessTruths.org - sheet music

Joy to the World

Christmas-Carol-Music.org - lyrics, variety of sheet music, including chords

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Christmas-Carol-Music.org - lyrics, variety of sheet music, including chords

[Video of St Malachy's College Choir](#) - [Video of Gilman Traveling Men](#)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Nethymnal.org - lyrics, midi

TimelessTruths.org - lyrics, sheet music, midi

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Songsandhymns.org - lyrics, sheet music, mp3 with vocals, more

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Nethymnal.org - lyrics, midi

TimelessTruths.org - lyrics, sheet music, midi

Ding dong! Merrily on High

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Christmas-Carol-Music.org - lyrics, variety of sheet music, including chords

[Celtic Woman video](#) - [Mormon Tabernacle Choir video](#)

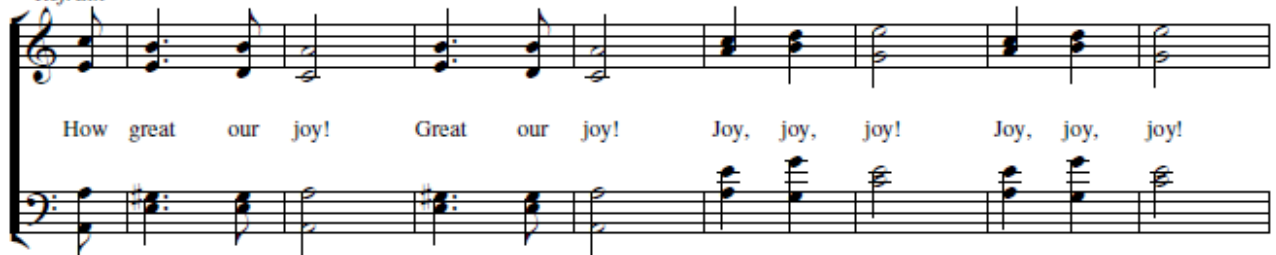
How Great Our Joy

*Bethlehem... out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel. Mic. 5:2
And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen. Lk. 2:8-20*

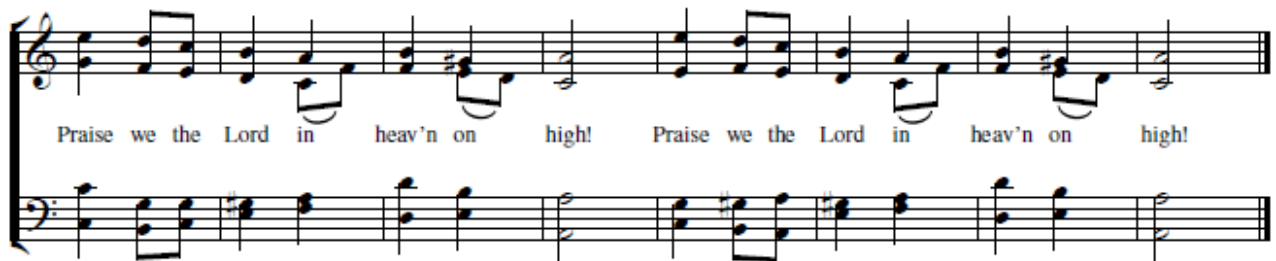


1. While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tid - ings brought an an - gel bright.
2. There shall be born, so He did say, In Beth - le - hem a Child to - day.
3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall re - deem us all.
4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, That ev - er joy our hearts shall fill.

Refrain



How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!



Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Words: Traditional German carol; v. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker. Music: "Jüngst"; German melody; arr. by Hugo Jüngst. Public Domain.

Source - timelesstruths.org

HOW GREAT OUR JOY

Words: Traditional German carol; stanzas 1-2 trans. by Theodore Baker (1851-1934).

Music: Traditional German melody, arranged by Hugo Jüngst (1853-1923)

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain

How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so He did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.

Refrain

There shall the Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.

Refrain

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Refrain

Joy to the World

words by Isaac Watts, alt.

tune: *Antioch*, George Frederick Handel
adapt. & arr. by Lowell Mason

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth re-ceive her King.
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav-iour reigns. Let men make their songs em-ploy
3. He rules the world with truth and grace. Let and makes the na-tions prove

Let while ev-'ry heart pre-pare Him room, and
the fields glo-ries of rocks, His right-eous-ness re-

heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture
peat the sound-ing joy, re and peat the sound-ing
won-ders of His love, and

sing, and hea-ven and hea-ven and na-ture sing
joy, re and peat, re and peat-ven and the sound-ing
love, and ders, won-ders of His joy.
heav'n and na-ture sing
peat the sound-ing
won-ders of His love

JOY TO THE WORLD

Words: Isaac Watts, The Psalms of David, 1719.

Music: ANTIOCH, arranged by Lowell Mason, 1836

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.

Joy to the earth, 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.

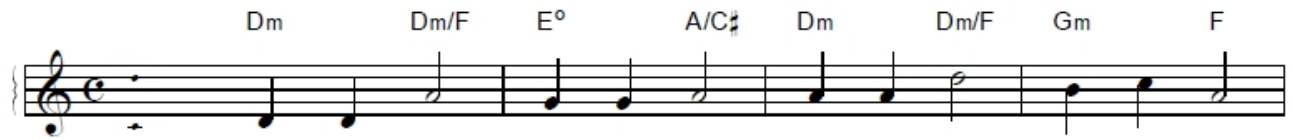
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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, wonders, of His love.

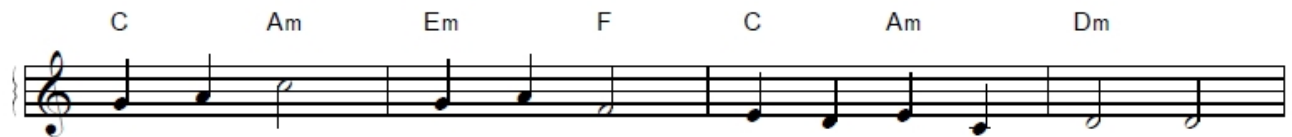
On This Day Earth Shall Ring

words: anonymous 16th cent.
trans. Jane M. Joseph

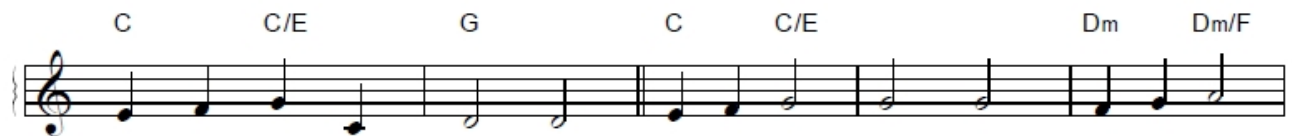
tune: *Personent Hodie*
anonymous 16th cent.



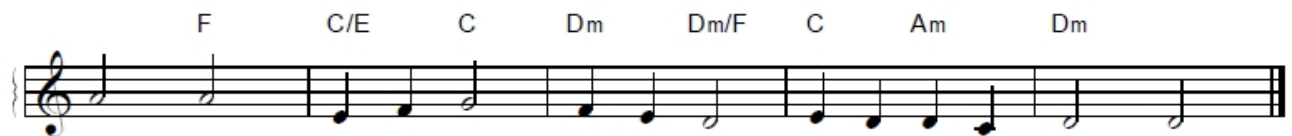
1. On this day earth shall ring with the song chil - dren sing
2. His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,
3. God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led;
4. On this day an - gels sing; with their song earth shall ring,



to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
Beth - le - hem, saw his birth; ox and ass be - side him
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be - fore him,
prai - sing Christ, hea - ven's King, born on earth to save us;



him the Fa - ther gave us. Id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o -
from the cold would hide him.
praise him and a - dore him.
peace and love he gave us.



o - o, Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING

Words: "Personent Hodie" from Piaae Cantiones, 1582
translated by Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)
Tune: PERSONET HODIE

On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.

Refrain:

Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o,
Id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth;
when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth;
ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him.

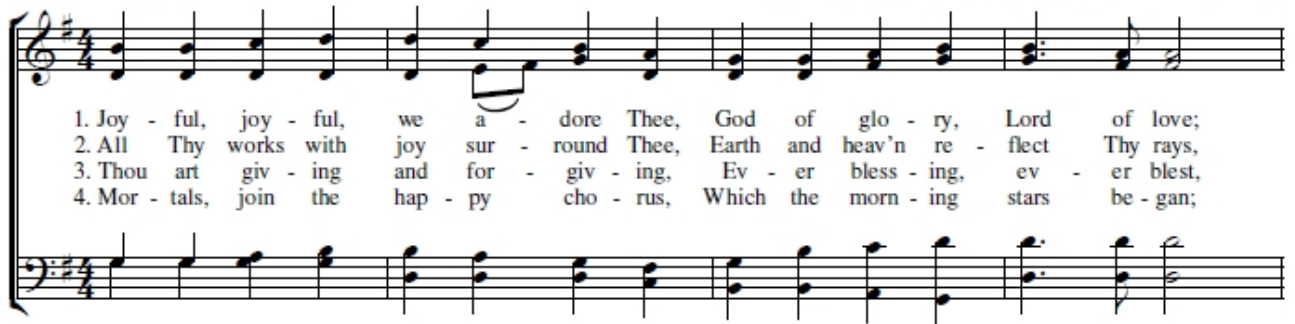
God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise Men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.

On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.

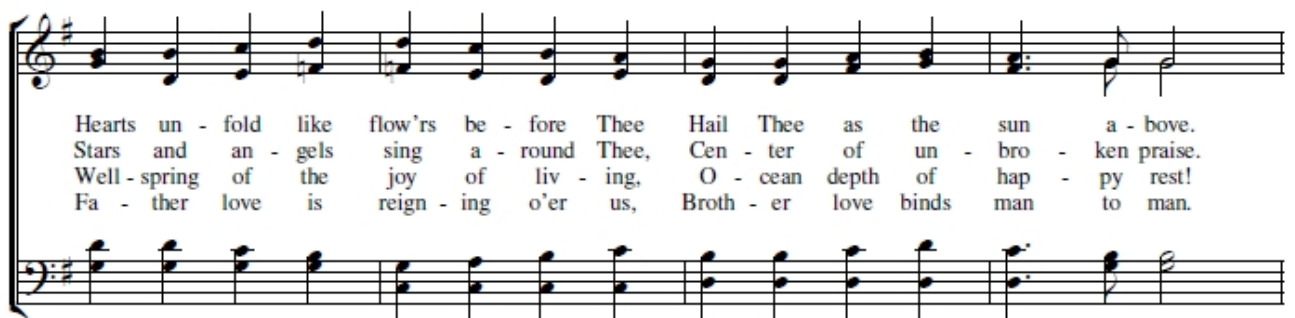
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

PSALM 71:23
Henry J. van Dyke, 1907

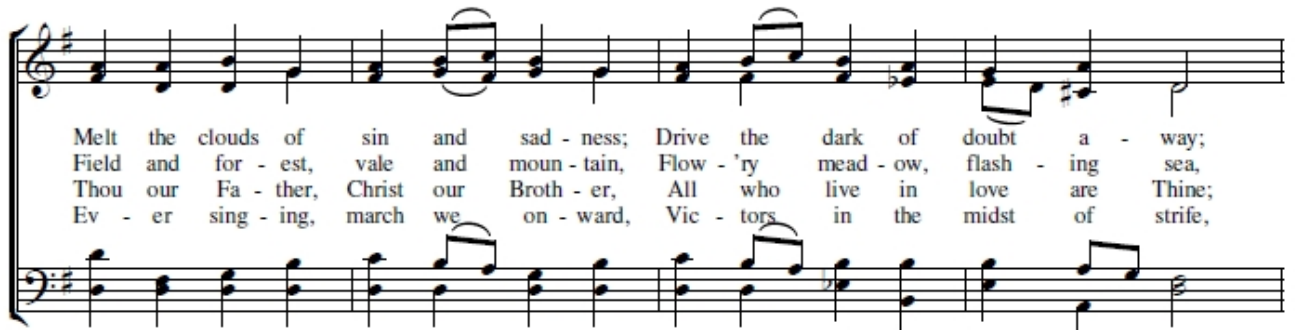
HYMN TO JOY
Ludwig van Beethoven; *arr. by* Edward Hodges, 1824



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus, Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee Hail Thee as the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day!
Sing - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

Source - timelesstruths.org

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

Words: Henry J. van Dyke, 1907

Music: Hymn to Joy, from the 9th Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven; adapted by Edward Hodges, 1824

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning 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!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
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.

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.

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

QUEBEC

Attr: to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, ca. 1150

Arr. and Tr. by Ray Palmer, 1858

Henry Baker, 1854

1. Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
 2. Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est
 3. We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
 4. Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
 5. O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay, make all our

life, thou light of men, from the best bliss that earth im -
 those that on thee call; to them that seek thee thou art
 feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the foun - tain -
 change - ful lot is cast; glad when thy gra - cious smile we
 mo - ments calm and bright; chase the dark night of sin a -

parts we turn un - filled to thee a - gain.
 good, to them that find thee all in all.
 head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
 sec, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
 way, shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

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Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal (<http://www.cyberhymnal.org>)

Source - songsandhymns.org

JESUS, THOU JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

Words: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th Century (Jesu dulcis memoria); translated from Latin to English by Ray Palmer, 1858, in his Poetical Works (New York: 1876).

Music: Hesperus, Henry Baker, 1854

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,
To them that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living Bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Wherever our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blessed when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed over the world Thy holy light.

DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

Words: George R. Woodward (1848-1934).

Music: From Orchesographie, by Thoinot Arbeau, 1588

Ding dong! merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Free printable piano music with chords available at music-for-music-teachers.com

A Week of Love

Jesus says in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” And didn't He know this better than any other? He set aside the glory of heaven to put on flesh so that He could pay the price for our redemption. There is truly no greater love.

Christmas songs that focus specifically on God's love to us as shown in the coming of His Son are surprisingly rare. Many tell the Story of His love, but few speak of it directly. So in the Music of Love section, you will find several precious hymns of the faith that are not traditionally thought of as Christmas songs. Yet they are a fitting and needed reminder of His great love and what it cost Him. My guess is that there will be plenty of other traditional Christmas music to fill in any gaps you feel, and I pray that you will be blessed by some of these less expected songs.

[illegible]

Scripture Readings on Love



The Steadfast Love of the Lord

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.
Psalm 13:5-6

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.
How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
Psalm 36:5-7

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!
Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!
I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
Psalm 57:7-11

But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.
For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.
O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.
Psalm 59:16-17

A Psalm for giving thanks.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
Psalm 100:1-5

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!
For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.
Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.
Psalm 107:8-9,43

Of David.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 103:1-8

A Song of Ascents.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than
watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is
plentiful redemption.
And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
Psalm 130:1-8



A Song of Praise. Of David.

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty
acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will
meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your
greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of
your righteousness.
The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 145:1-8

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.
Lamentations 3:21-25

The Redeeming Love of the Lord

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 3:14-18

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die--

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:1-11



Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:35-39

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love
he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight
making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ
as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,
so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.
Ephesians 1:3-12

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,
that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:14-19

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:1-2



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:7-19



Music of Love

Online Music Resources

The Savior of the World/I Cannot Tell Why He Whom Angels Worship

Hymnal.net- lyrics, chords, sheet music

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

Guitarchordsforhymns - lyrics, simple chords

One Day When Heaven Was Filled with His Praises

Hymnal.net - lyrics, chords, sheet music

The Love of God

Timelesstruths.org - lyrics, midi, sheet music

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

And Can It Be

Songsandhymns.org - lyrics, sheet music, mp3 with vocals

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

SongsAndHymns.org - lyrics, sheet music, mp3 with vocals

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

What Love it Was that Brought Thee down

Stempublishing.com - lyrics, midi files of several tunes

Behold, What Love!

Cyberhymnal.org - lyrics, midi

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship

Preaching of the Gospel—Myriads Won

934

C G D⁷/A G/B C F C/E Am C/G F F/C F G⁷/F Em Am C/G

1. I can - not tell why He, whom an-gels wor-ship, Should set His love up-on the sons of

Dm/F G⁷ C F C/E C⁷ F D⁷/F# C/G Am Dm G⁷

men, Or why, as Sheph-erd, He should seek the wan-d'ers, To bring them back, they know not how or

C F/C C G⁷ C C/E F F/A C C/G C G/B Am C/G F Em

when. But this I know, that He was born of Ma-ry, When Beth-l'hem's man - ger was His on-ly

Dm D⁷/F# G G⁷/B C C⁷/E F F/A C/G Am F C/EG⁷/DC Am C/GF G⁷ C F/C C

home, And that He lived at Nazareth and la-bored, 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 broken-hearted,
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.

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD/I CANNOT TELL WHY HE WHOM ANGELS WORSHIP

Words: William Y. Fullerton, 1929.

Music: LONDONDERRY, traditional Irish melody

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 wand'ers,
To bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,
When Bethl'hem's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and labored,
And so the Savior, Savior of the world, is come.

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 broken-hearted,
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.

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.

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.


One day when heaven was filled with His praises

Gospel—The Savior

C672 K672 P441 Tg987


987

C C/E F G F/A G F C/E C Dm A/C# Dm Dm/F G⁷ C C/G




1. One day when heav - en was filled with His prais-es, One day when sin was as black as could be,

C G⁷/D C/E F G F/A G F C/E C G/D G D/F# A⁷/E D⁷ G G/B




5 Je-sus came forth to be born of a vir - gin— Dwelt a-mong men, my ex - am-ple is He!

C G⁷ G⁷/D G⁷ G⁷/B C C/G C/E G⁷/D C F A⁷/E D⁷ G G⁷



9 **Chorus** (C) Liv-ing, He loved me; dy-ing, He saved me; Bur-ied, He car - ried my sins far a - way;

C G⁷ G⁷/D G⁷ G⁷/B C C/E F A⁷/E D D⁷/F# G⁷ C F/C C



13 Ris-ing, He just - i-fied free-ly for - ev - er: One day He's com-ing— O glo-ri-ous day!

2. One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain,
One day they nailed Him to die on the tree;
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected;
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He.
3. One day they left Him alone in the garden,
One day He rested, from suffering free;
Angels came down o'er His tomb to keep vigil;
Hope of the hopeless, my Savior is He.
4. One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,
One day the stone rolled away from the door;
Then He arose, over death He had conquered;
Now is ascended, my Lord evermore.
5. One day the trumpet will sound for His coming,
One day the skies with His glory will shine;
Wonderful day, my beloved ones bringing;
Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine!

[Source - hymnal.net](http://hymnal.net)

ONE DAY WHEN HEAVEN WAS FILLED WITH HIS PRAISES

Words: J. Wilbur Chapman.

Music: Charles H. Marsh

One day when heaven was filled with His praises,
One day when sin was as black as could be,
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin—
Dwelt among men, my example is He!

Chorus:

*Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me;
Buried, He carried my sins far away;
Rising, He justified freely forever:
One day He's coming—O glorious day!*

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain,
One day they nailed Him to die on the tree;
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected;
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He.

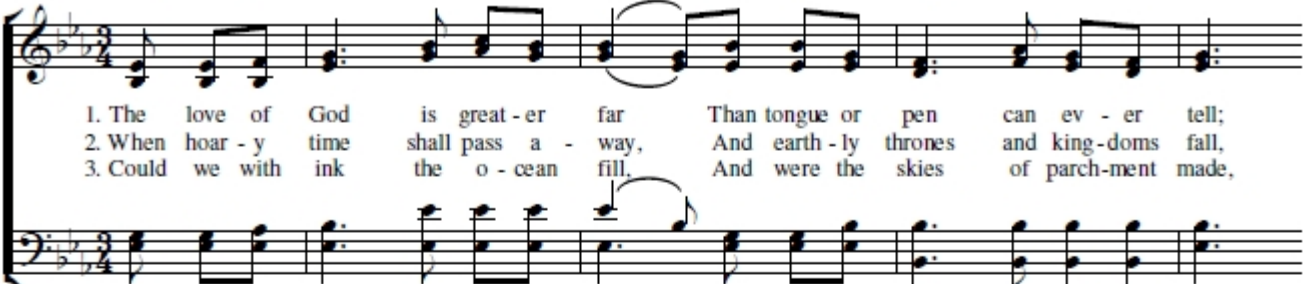
One day they left Him alone in the garden,
One day He rested, from suffering free;
Angels came down o'er His tomb to keep vigil;
Hope of the hopeless, my Savior is He.

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,
One day the stone rolled away from the door;
Then He arose, over death He had conquered;
Now is ascended, my Lord evermore.

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming,
One day the skies with His glory will shine;
Wonderful day, my beloved ones bringing;
Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine!

The Love of God


*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God. Rom. 8:38-39; Jn. 3:16*



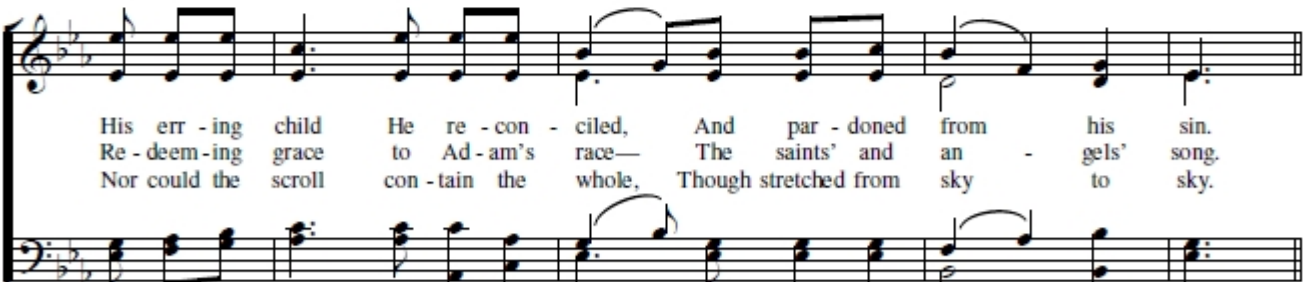
1. The love of God is great - er far Than tongue or pen can ev - er tell;
2. When hoar - y time shall pass a - way, And earth - ly thrones and king - doms fall,
3. Could we with ink the o - cean fill, And were the skies of parch - ment made,



It goes be - yond the high - est star, And reach - es to the low - est hell;
When men who here re - fuse to pray, On rocks and hills and moun - tains call,
Were eve - ry stalk on earth a quill, And eve - ry man a scribe by trade;

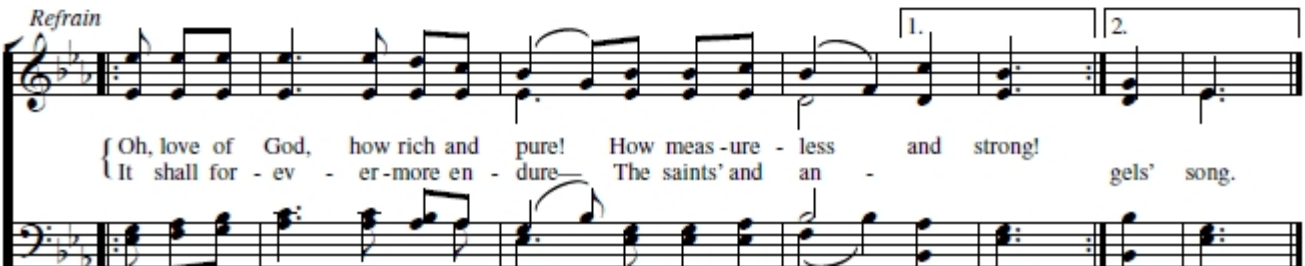


The guilt - y pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
God's love so sure, shall still en - dure, All meas - ure - less and strong;
To write the love of God a - bove Would drain the o - cean dry;



His err - ing child He re - con - ciled, And par - doned from his sin.
Re - deem - ing grace to Ad - am's race— The saints' and an - gels' song.
Nor could the scroll con - tain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain



{ Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How meas - ure - less and strong!
It shall for - ev - er - more en - dure— The saints' and an - gels' song.

Words: Frederick M. Lehman, 1917; v. 3 by Rabbi Mayer, 1096; v. 3 alt. Music: F. M. L., 1917; arr. by Claudia L. Mays. Public Domain.

Source - TimelessTurths.org

The Love Of God

Words: Frederick M. Lehman

Music: Frederick M. Lehman, arranged by his daughter, Claudia L. Mays

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Refrain

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.*

When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
The saints' and angels' song.

Refrain

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

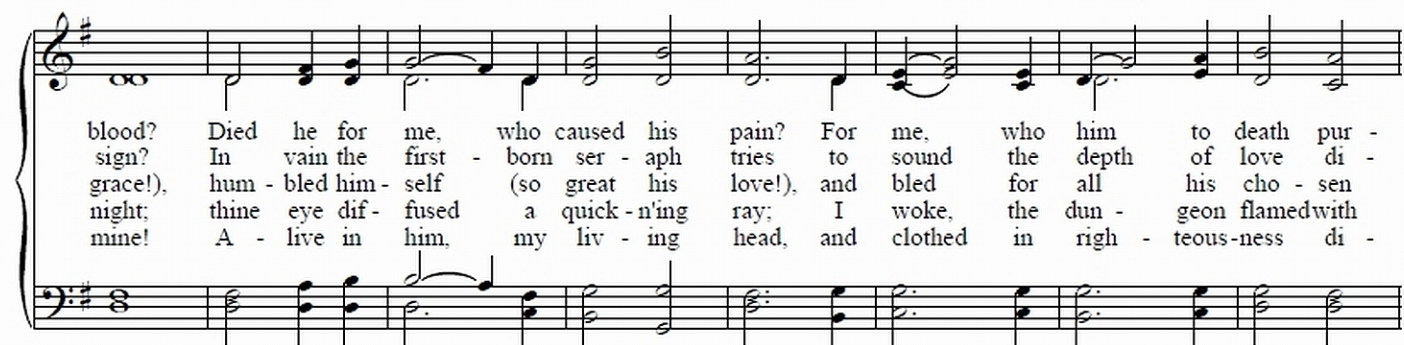
Charles Wesley, 1738

SAGINA

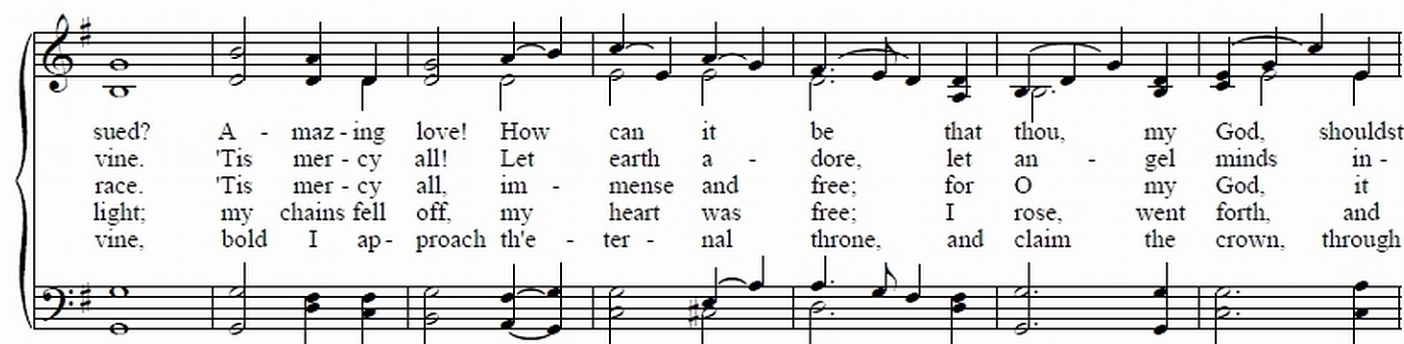
Thomas Campbell, 1825



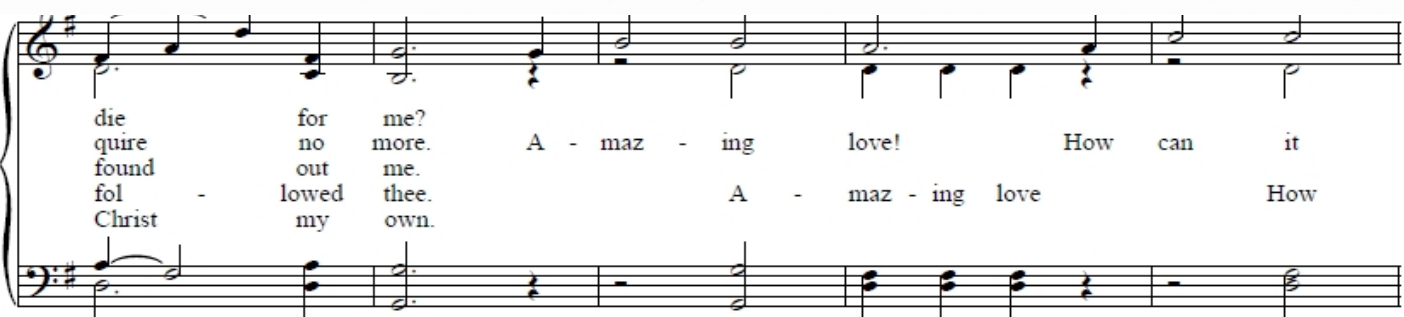
1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest in the Sav - ior's
 2. 'Tis mys - t'ry all! Th' Im mor - tal dies: who can ex - plore his strange de -
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so in - fi - nate his
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in sin and na - ture's
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and all in him is



blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pur -
 sign? In vain the first - born ser - aph tries to sound the depth of love di -
 grace!), hum - bled him - self (so great his love!), and bled for all his cho - sen
 night; thine eye dif - fused a quick - n'ing ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with
 mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di -



sued? A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst
 vine. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a - dore, let an - gel minds in -
 race. 'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and free; for O my God, it
 light; my chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and
 vine, bold I ap - proach th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through



die for me? A - maz - ing love! How can it
 quire no more. A - maz - ing love
 found out me.
 fol - lowed thee. A - maz - ing love
 Christ my own. How



be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 can it be that thou, my God,

Public domain

AND CAN IT BE

Words: Charles Wesley, Psalms and Hymns, 1738.
Music: SAGINA, Thomas Campbell, Bouquet, 1825

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

'Tis mystery all: th'Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
Refrain

He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
Refrain

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
Refrain

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Refrain

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Samuel Trevor Francis

♩ = 100

O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - mea - sured,
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, spread His praise from
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, of eve - ry

bound - less, free! Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean
 shore love to shore! How He lov - eth, ev - er o - cean
 'tis a ha - ven re - ver - more! vast of bless - ing,

in its full - ness O ver me! Un - der - neath me,
 chang - eth ne - ver, re - ver - more! watch - es
 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest! How O the deep, deep

all a - round me, is the cur - rent of Thy love own; Lead - ing on - ward,
 o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own; them He
 love of Je - sus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me; And it lifts me

lead - ing home - ward to Thy glo - rious rest a - bove!
 in - ter - ce - deth, watch - eth over them the throne!
 up to glo - ry, for i - lifts me up to Thee!

Source - songsandhymns.org

O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

Words: S. Trevor Francis, 1875.

Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, in Llaw lyfr Moliant, 1890

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore!
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

WHAT LOVE IT WAS

Words: E.W.T

Tune: Various (see *Online Resources* for link)

What love it was that brought Thee down,
Down to the depths in which I lay,
That made Thee leave Thy glory-throne,
In Servant's form to tread Thy way;
Yet lower still to death to go,
That I might never judgment know.

My place is now in Thee above,
By virtue of Thy precious blood,
Before Thy Father's face in love,
Made now my Father and my God.
Oh! that my feeble voice might swell,
The praise of Him who loves so well.

'Tis love that cannot be explained,
It is too wonderful, too vast;
The heart of God alone contained,
Such thoughts divine in ages past.
But oh! I know it rests on me,
And will throughout eternity.

O fill me Lord yet more and more,
So that my heart e'en here below,
From Thy love's rich and boundless store,
Be satisfied and overflow.
Full with the blessing Thou hast given,
The foretaste now of what makes heaven.

BEHOLD, WHAT LOVE!

Words: Unknown. Attributed to multiple authors.

Music: James McGranahan (1840-1907)

Behold, what love, what boundless love,
The Father hath bestowed
On sinners lost, that we should be
Now called "the sons of God!"

Refrain

*Behold, what manner of love!
What manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,
That we, that we should be called,
Should be called the sons of God!*

No longer far from Him but now
By "precious blood" made nigh,
Accepted in the "Well beloved,"
Near to God's heart we lie.
Refrain

What we in glory soon shall be,
It doth not yet appear;
But when our precious Lord we see,
We shall His image bear.
Refrain

With such a blessed hope in view,
We would more holy be,
More like our risen, glorious Lord,
Whose face we soon shall see.
Refrain

Thanks and Credits

First thanks to the Author of the grand Story of Redemption, Who chose to create us and set the Story in motion, though He knew what it would cost Him to redeem us. Worthy is the Lamb!

Thanks to my sister-in-love, Beka, who brought the concept of the Advent Wreath to our attention. Thank you, Honey, for the gift that this worship tool has been to our family.

My precious husband and Blessings, thank you for putting up with my level of distraction as I have worked toward sharing this joy with others. You have made it possible!

And thanks to our parents, who have supported and joined us as we have explored this and other tools for worship. Roots and wings... you've given us both.

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