



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

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LaVada Terrell - VP, Christian Life

THE CHRISTMAS STORY WITH CAROLS

We all love to sing Christmas carols and never tire of hearing the wondrous story of the birth of the Christ Child. This devotion combines the story of Jesus' birth with carols to enhance our celebration of Christmas.

**O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

[Public Domain; LSB 379]

Seven hundred years before Christ's birth, the prophet Isaiah said: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.* Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

[Public Domain; LSB 357]

Micah wrote: *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.* Micah 5:2 (KJV)

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep And dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark street shineth The everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, Ann gathered all above While mortals sleep, The angels keep
Their watch of won-d'ring love, O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the king, And peace to all the earth!**

[Public Domain; LSB #361]

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house

and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:1-7 (KJV)

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

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is night.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

[Public Domain; LSB 364]

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:8-11 (KJV)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**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 wonder, wonders of His love.**

[Public Domain; LSB 387]

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, good will toward men. Luke 2:13-14 (KJV)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

[Public Domain; LSB #380]

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:15-16 (KJV)

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

[Public Domain; LSB 367]

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
Luke 2:17-20 (KJV)

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright! Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.**

[Public Domain; LSB 363]

The good news of our Savior is for all people! However, not all people have heard it. God no longer sends Gabriel and the heavenly host as messengers, but rather He gives us the task – we are His messengers. Christ tells us, *Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.*
Mark 16:15 (NIV) Let's sing about this mission.

***Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!***

***While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Refrain***

***The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain***

***Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain***

[Public Domain; LSB #388]

This is God's Christmas greeting.
In the beautiful story of Jesus birth, it was sung by a chorus of angelic voices.
Heard at first only by Judean shepherds outside the town of Bethlehem,
Nevertheless, it is a message that the whole world should hear.

On each Christmas Day, God repeats His greeting:
PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN!!

Written by Rhea Bell, March 1993, LWML #5106

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The Christian Life Committee wishes you a blessed Christmas season!!