

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

A Song Was Born at Christmas

TUNE: I Sing the Mighty Power of God (ELLACOMBE)

Matthew 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-15; John 1:12-14

N.C. A^b F_m B^b_m / F E^b A^b D^b A^b / C D^b6 E^b A^b

1. A song was born at Christ - mas That set the sky a - blaze
2. A star shone down at Christ - mas, A light from God's own heart,
3. Our God came down at Christ - mas, And we have seen His face.

N.C. A^b / C F_m B^b_m / F E^b A^b D^b F_m E^b_{sus} E^b A^b

As joy - ful sound rang all a - round With heav - en's high - est praise.
A light of love from high a - bove To lead us from a - far.
If we be - lieve, we here re - ceive The full - ness of His grace.

A^b A^b E^b / G A^b D^b E^b E^b_{sus} E^b F_m E^b / G A^b E^b / G A^b D^b E^b

Now let us join the brand - new song That low - ly shep - herds heard.
The wise men came with won - drous gifts, And still we all may come
Our God has come to us this day With peace and hope in Him.

N.C. A^b / C F_m B^b_m / F E^b A^b D^b F_m E^b_{sus} E^b A^b

With heart and voice, O come, re - joice, That Je - sus Christ is Lord!
To find the King and hum - bly bring Our wor - ship and our love.
So come, draw near. The Lord is here! Let Christ - mas joy be - gin!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der Herzog*, 1784

ELLACOMBE, alt.
7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.

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TOPICS: Christmas; Epiphany

LEAD-IN: **Christmas Is a Story of Joy**

Christmas is a story of Joy.
It's a story of wonder,
 of magnificent promises
 made and kept.
It's a story of faith,
 of love and light and worship,
a story of long journeys
and incredible discoveries.

It's a story of kings and angels,
 of shepherds and priests,
 of young and old.
It's a story of beautiful, ordinary people.

But above all,
Christmas is a story of Jesus.
When we sing at Christmas,
 we sing about Him.
When we celebrate,
 we celebrate Him.
When we are happy,
 we are happy because
 He is with us.
Christmas is a story of Joy,
and our Joy is
 Jesus.

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LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

A Multitude of Angels

In both the Old and New Testaments, the words translated “angel” literally mean “messenger”. Many times God sent individual angels to deliver His message to selected persons on earth: to Hagar (Genesis 16:7-12), Abraham (Genesis 22:11-18), Moses (Exodus 3:2), Gideon (Judges 6:11-12), Zechariah (Luke 1:11-20), Mary (Luke 1:26-38), and many more.

On the other hand, visions of heaven speak of multitudes of angels. These multitudes appear in the visions of the prophets Micaiah (1 Kings 22:19) and Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-4) and in John’s visions recorded in Revelation (5:8-14; 7:11-12). These angels are shown serving God through obedience and praise.

But I know of only once when God sent a message to earth, not through an individual angel alone, but through a multitude of angels. This multitude was sent to announce an event that

would be the turning point of all history. At that moment they would bring the praise and glory of heaven down to earth.

It was night. The place was the sky over an open field outside a small village on the eastern end of the Mediterranean. Only a handful of shepherds saw and heard this one-time appearance:

*Suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."
(Luke 2:13-14, NASB)*

The event they announced had been whispered since the beginning of human history. This event was a Gift, prophesied for centuries by God's seers. They had spoken in common images of a Child, a Shepherd, a Servant, a Warrior, and a King who would somehow be beyond all titles, all descriptions, and all imaginings. This Gift was a coming, a personal arrival, and on that ordinary, extraordinary night, the arrival was now:

Transcendent God had taken flesh and blood.
Holy God was, now and forever, wholly human.

Heaven itself had come to earth. The One who had sat on the throne was now an infant lying in a feeding trough. But for just a few moments that night, He brought His throne-room choir with Him.