

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

# Partners in the Mystery

TUNE: Good King Wenceslas  
Matthew 1:8-15; Luke 2:1-7, 21-35

♩ = 112

G Em D F# G C D C G/B C D7/A G

1. What a bless - ing God has sent! Now, be - fore the wed - ding,  
2. See the ten - der Mar - y there - Like so man - y oth - ers,  
3. In the tem - ple, what a sight! Af - ter years of wait - ing,  
4. What a priv - ilege! What a call! Part - ners in the mys - tery!

G Em D F# G C D C G/B C D7/A G

Vir - gin Mar - y, good and pure, Sud - den - ly ex - pect - ing;  
Young and scared and all a - lone, Soon to be a moth - er,  
Now be - fore his ver - y eyes There the Prom - ised Ba - by!  
We who walk by faith be - come Part of ho - ly his - t'ry.

G/B C G/D D G D Em C G/B C D7/A G

Friends and fam - 'ly all up - set, Jo - seph dis - il - lus - ioned.  
In - to dark - ness, in - to pain, Un - to death is giv - en  
There the Light of all the world! There for all the na - tions,  
Rich and poor, the young and old, Fill the time - less sto - ry.

G/B C D7/A Em D G/B C G/D D Em C G

Still they trust the guid - ing Word Thro' their dark con - fus - ion.  
Such a tin - y pre - cious life, Such a gift from heav - en.  
Sleep - ing in his fold - ed arms, Heav - en's sweet sal - va - tion!  
All who bold - ly fol - low God See and share His glo - ry.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: Traditional; arr. by Sir John Stainer

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM  
7.6.7.6.D.

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TOPICS: Christmas; Faith

LEAD-IN: *Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses His life for My sake will find it."*  
(Matthew 16:24-25, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## Share in Christ

Consider the people nearest to Jesus during His life on earth:

His mother,  
His father,  
His disciples.

Those closest to Him shared His sufferings.  
In their own degree, they bore what Jesus bore.  
Their relationship with that one man cost them everything.

For them, the mysteries of the transcendent God weren't abstract and far away.  
They witnessed those mysteries close up.  
They tasted them.  
They journeyed through them.  
They wrestled with them daily –  
the light, the darkness,  
the privilege, the pain,  
the waiting, the questions, the wrenching self-sacrifice.

For each, it started with a personal call.  
They sensed it was the call of the Living God,  
and that decided their response,  
though they couldn't see the end from the beginning.

Mary answered the angel,  
*"I am the Lord's servant... May your word to me be fulfilled"* (Luke 1:38, NIV).  
Joseph obeyed a dream and took a pregnant woman as his fiancé.  
The disciples, average working men with deep local connections,  
dropped everything familiar and  
followed a homeless, itinerant teacher.

The price was real,  
but the result was life rich beyond imagination,  
permeated with truth and peace,  
love and fruitfulness,  
eternal meaning and undying glory.  
That is still the price and the reward for all who share in Christ.