

JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

-  Plan for about 10–15 minutes
-  Play the carol, see link and lyrics below, and sing along—this will get better as you sing it each day!
-  Read the devotional together and the Bible verse linked to each one
-  Use the question if that is helpful
-  Each day closes with a short prayer
-  Sing the carol again if you have time!

To play carols and see lyrics, go to

[GettyMusic.com/GettyKids](https://www.gettymusic.com/GettyKids)

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DAY 1 "JOY HAS DAWNED"

—The story behind the carol

*"I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."*

PSALM 104:33

Keith and our friend Stuart Townend wrote this carol while Keith and I were living in Switzerland. From where we lived you can often see snow on the top of Mont Blanc, the tallest mountain of the Alps, all year round! They wanted to write a Christmas Carol that told the story of Jesus' birth and what it means for us. Stuart has three children and we have four. They both love to tell stories to their kids especially ones about the Lord. One of the ways they do that is to put the stories into songs. They spent a long time going over every word and note, trying to make them clear and beautiful. We have sung it every Christmas since they finished it!

Singing is a great way to remember something. We often travel as a family on the road when we are performing concerts. Sometimes that means doing home school on the tour bus or backstage at a concert hall. One October our daughter Charlotte was writing the date out on a white board. Before she started to write it, she suddenly sang a little song that spelled out the word "October". She had learned the song at school and it helped her remember the letters in the right order!

How kind of the Lord to make us in such a way that when we sing something, we can remember it better. How wonderful when those songs are about Him!



Can you think of a song about the Lord you know really well?
Name one thing it teaches you about Him?



Father in heaven,

*Thank you for the gifts of music and poetry and singing.
Please help us know you better as we learn these carols
together,*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*





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DAY 2 Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

JOHN 1:1, 4 & 5

Do you find it hard to sleep on Christmas Eve? It's dark and you just can't wait for the morning! I still find it hard to sleep on Christmas Eve because I'm so excited!

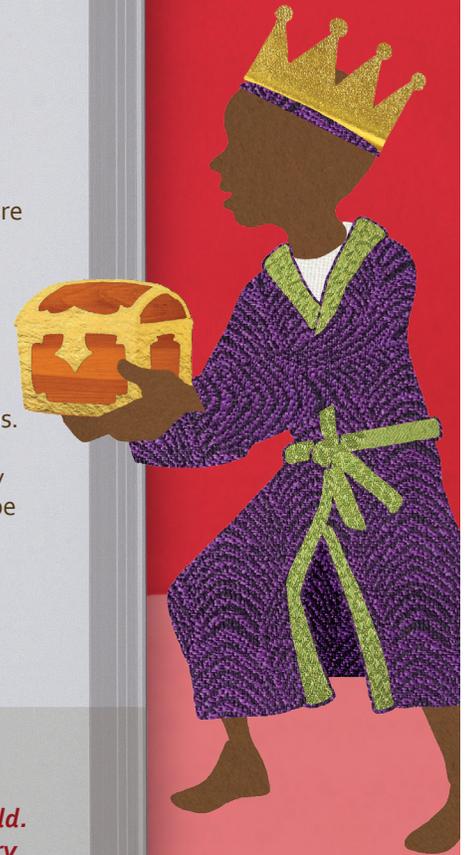
Before the very first day there ever was it was dark. The earth had not been made yet. Then God said, "let there be light" and there was! And it was sparkling without a smudge. The earth was completely safe and there was nothing to fear.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God sin and fear and trouble came into the world like a dark shadow. For thousands of years people waited for God to rescue them, to take away the darkness. Then suddenly like the sun rising in the sky Jesus came into the world.

The story of Christmas is the greatest rescue story—God comes to save us. The word "unfurled" means spread out the way a flag spreads out in the wind for all to see. God sent Jesus for everyone to see and no longer stay in the dark. We do not need to be afraid or hide away from Him. We can be even more excited for the morning to come because of the greatest gift Christmas brings to us—Our Savior, the light of the world, has come!

➔ **What does light do? How does this help us understand Jesus as the Light of the world?**

➔ *Father in heaven,
Thank you for sending the Lord Jesus to us, the light of the world.
Help me remember that you are always with us through every
night and day,
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



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DAY 3 **Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory But a humble gift of love, Jesus born of Mary**

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

MATTHEW 11:29

A 'fanfare' is a loud and lively piece of music played by brass instruments like a trumpet. It is often used to introduce someone important—like a President or King and Queen.

When a royal baby is born it is usually a very big deal for everyone. I remember when the new princes and princess of England were born. There were hundreds of cameras clicking outside the hospital trying to snatch the first photograph! They were born with the best doctors. They moved into the palace. They were dressed in the best clothes you could buy. The news went all over the world in seconds!

Yet when the greatest King was born, He came much more humbly, much more gently. Jesus, who made the silver light of stars, the golden rays of the sun, the ruby color of an evening sky was born as a little baby in an animal's stable and laid in a manger. No great palace. No huge crowd squeezing in. No fanfare.

To be humble is something that pleases God's heart. What does it mean to be humble? It is much more than the things we have or don't have. In the Bible it really means to trust and rely on the Lord and then to love and follow Him completely. This means to care much more about His importance than my own. This means to love the Lord and others more than I love myself. Christ shows us that this is what it looks like to be truly great. He came as a humble gift of love to everyone.

➔ Can you think of one simple way you could show or tell someone about the love of Jesus this Christmas?

➔ *Father in heaven,
Thank you that you are a humble King, a King who came to serve and to save the lost. May your humble heart grow in me that I might always serve and love you.*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



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DAY 4

Sounds of wonder full the skies with the sounds of angels
As the humble Prince of life shelters in a stable.

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"

LUKE 2:13-14

Have you ever heard a really big choir sing? We have many times as we have performed concerts—even a choir of a 1000 voices! They fill every part of the room with their huge sound. On the night the Lord Jesus was born a choir of angels filled the sky. An angel is a messenger from God. He was telling us something very important through them. "Good news of great joy a Savior has been born to you...you will find Him in a manger" they said. This is very clear news! God knew exactly where Jesus was. He was in a real place, at that real time where the shepherds could really find Him! This was not a made-up story.

It is also very wonderful news! All of heaven was bursting with it. God had promised long ago to send the Savior and now it had finally happened. When we sing carols together, we join the angels in their song. We are able to keep telling the good news. We are part of a choir that reaches through all of time and all of heaven. How amazing is that?! Do you know how much people love to hear children sing?!

→ Can you remember a favorite time when you sang a carol with lots of people at once?!

→ *Father in Heaven,
Thank you that you have shown us clearly that Jesus is the Savior! May we always be ready to sing and tell out this good news that more people may know,
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



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DAY 5 **Hands that set each star in place shaped the earth in darkness Cling now to a mother's breast vulnerable and helpless**

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

LUKE 2:6-7

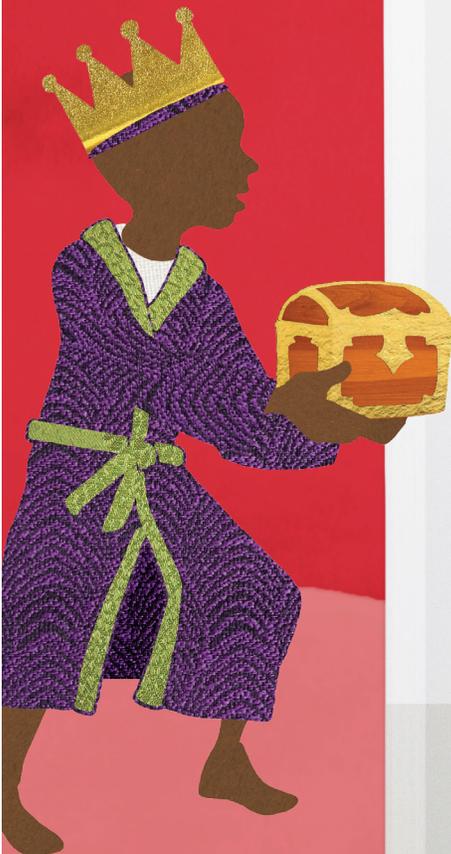
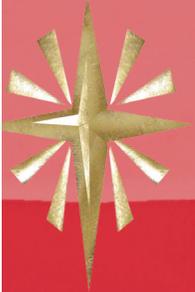
We have had four babies and each one so incredibly special. When they were born, I counted each of their fingers! I couldn't believe how tiny they were as they wrapped round my little finger. I also felt a little scared thinking how much they needed me. They were so helpless! Imagine how Mary felt looking at her little baby. How could God have made Himself so small? His hands had spread out the skies like a huge blanket. Now He was holding on tight to His mother and was wrapped in a blanket. Who could ever have imagined such a story? Only God could.

He came just like us to save us. Every person is so precious to the Lord. Every baby growing inside their mother's tummy right up to the oldest grandma or grandpa who feels weak like a little child again. The God of the stars sees the twinkle in your eye. The God who knows the map of the universe knows the little lines printed on every one of your fingertips. He knows all our weaknesses, all our fears, all our struggles. He knows we need Him and that is exactly what He gave. He took on skin and bones like us so that we might know Him. So that like a baby clings to its mother we may hold on tight to Him as our Savior.

➔ **Think of how a baby relies on his mother.
In what ways is this like how we rely on God?**

➔ **Father in heaven,
Thank you that we are so precious to You and that You
speak to us in ways we can understand. Help us to listen
and to know how much we need You,**

**In Jesus' name,
Amen**



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DAY 6

Shepherds bow before the Lamb gazing at the glory
Gifts of men from distant lands prophecy the story

The poetry in this first line might sound a bit strange to you—why would Jesus be called a Lamb? Jesus has many different names. Each of these names tell us something about who He is. He is Savior because He saves us. He is a King because He rules over the whole world. He is a Lamb because in the times before Jesus was born lambs were given to pay for the forgiveness of the sins of the people. When Jesus died on the cross, He was like the Lamb paying for our sins. In the Christmas story the Shepherds who took care of sheep and their lambs day and night were now worshipping Jesus, the Lamb. It was marvelous for them to see this!

Jesus had other visitors when He was little. They were very different to the Shepherds. They were from far away. They were very clever and wealthy. They hadn't heard of Jesus as a Lamb. They had seen a star in the sky which they knew as a sign that a King had been born. God brought people who were close by and far away. People who had very little and knew very little and people who had a lot and knew a lot. All needed to come and see Jesus. It is the same today. Wherever we are from, whatever we have we come and worship Him.

→ What does it mean to worship the Lord?

→ *Father in Heaven,*

Thank you that you have told us what you are like through names we can understand. As we think about all you have shown us may we praise You and follow you every day—this is what it means to worship you, our greatest treasure.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



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DAY 7 Gold a King is born today, incense God is with us
Myrrh His death will make a way and by his wounds He'll win us

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

MATTHEW 2:11

We all love receiving gifts, don't we? Often those gifts can tell you a little about what we are like and what we do. I remember one Christmas when I was 10 or 11 I got a little music playing machine with a microphone attached to it because I loved to sing. Think of a gift you have received and what it might tell someone about you.

The special gifts the wise men brought tell us something more about Jesus. The gift of gold is a wonderful way to tell us that Jesus is the King. Kings wear golden crowns and sit on golden thrones. Incense (Frankincense) is like a perfume. Just like the smell of a beautiful perfume might fill a room it reminds us that the Lord Jesus came to be with us, to live with us. We can come to Him who helps us. Myrrh is a special ointment that was used to put on a person's body when they had died. This reminds us that Jesus came that He might die on the cross to take away our sins.

The main reason we give and receive gifts at Christmas is to remind one another of the greatest gift we all can receive—the love and grace of Jesus.



How is Jesus' birth the greatest gift to us?

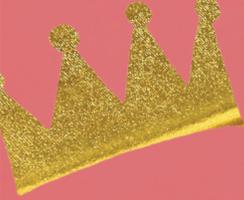


Father in heaven,

Thank you for the gift of Your Son. In all the excitement of gifts this Christmas help me love Your greater gifts more and more as I sing and hear about Jesus

*In His name we pray,
Amen*





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DAY 8

Son of Adam son of heaven given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man Christ our mighty champion

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

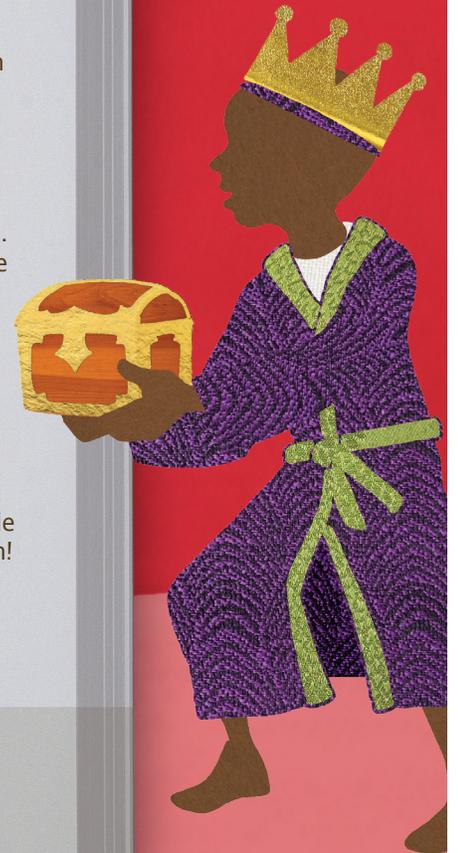
In the Narnia stories the Pevensie children are often called the Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve. This is because back in the very beginning God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. Everyone on earth has come from them—their great great great great great great... grandchildren! You are a son of Adam or a daughter of Eve. You have a body, and a brain, and dreams, and a heart, and a soul like them. But we also have sin like them too.

After Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden He gave her a promise. He said that one day someone would be born who would be able to take all the sin and pain away. A Son of Adam would come; Jesus, the Son of God. Unlike us He would have no sin. So He was able to reconcile us—make it possible for us to be friends with God again.

We like stories about champions, heroes who saved the day. What is your favorite champion story? The Bible has many stories of champions—Moses rescuing the children of Israel, King David leading many battles, Queen Esther saving her people, Daniel in the lion's den. But none of them could save people forever. No one could rescue a person's heart from the sin inside it. Only Jesus could do what we needed most—He is the greatest Champion!

→ How is Jesus our great champion?

→ *Father in heaven,
Thank you that you can forgive us from our sin. May
we be quick to say sorry and to love to do what is right,
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



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DAY 9 **What a Savior what a friend what a glorious mystery Once a babe in Bethlehem now the Lord of history**

*"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord."*

PSALM 40:3

Eric Liddle, a man from Scotland, won a gold medal at the Olympics many years ago. He was a hero and very famous but He loved the Lord more than everything else. He left Scotland to go to China so that he could tell people there about Jesus' love for them. The day he left from Waverly train station in Edinburgh there were many people who came to say goodbye. He was asked if he would like to speak to everyone. Instead he sang the hymn 'Jesus shall reign' which has the words 'His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore'. He knew that Jesus was the Lord of all the earth through all of time and people needed to hear this.

We may see the Lord Jesus as a baby at Christmas time but always remember that this same baby is the 'Lord of all of history.' Nobody is above Him or beyond Him. He holds the skies and all that happens beneath them. It is right and fitting that we should praise Him—when we love someone we want to say we do! And when we do others will hear about Him too.

We praise Him that He is our Savior and because of that we can have friendship with Him. It is 'a glorious mystery' because we will never fully understand why God has been so kind to us or the incredible way He came to help us.

→ How can singing help us thank the Lord for all He has done?

→ *Father in Heaven,
Thank you for giving me a voice to praise You. Thank you
that You are Lord over all things and that I can trust in You.*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



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DAY 10 "JESUS, JOY OF THE HIGHEST HEAVEN"

—The story behind the carol

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him..."

ROMANS 15:13

When I was pregnant with our first daughter Keith and I wrote this children's carol. We wrote it to try and describe the joy of Christmas to her. Her middle name is Joy. We wanted her to know that the greatest joy in life was also the one that could never be taken away—the joy of the Lord.

We were helped by Cecil Francis Alexander's carol "Once in Royal David's City". We love how she tried to show children that the Lord Jesus came as a little child like them to save them and bring them into God's family. Christmas is not to be far away from us. We are called right into the joy of the story, to know the Lord for ourselves.

What does joy mean? It is being glad deep inside when something is good and right and lovely. Like playing with a good friend, or sharing a lovely meal with family, or singing your favorite song to the Lord, or when you make a right choice. I'm sure you can think of many more! All these gifts are from the Lord who shows us what is good and right and lovely. They bring us to Him with thankfulness.

Of course, there are many things that don't bring joy. There are also things we love that come to an end. Jesus is our greatest joy like He is for all of heaven. He came to share our sadness so that we may share in His joy. One day He will make everything right and our joy will be perfect and never ending.

→ What are some of the ways Jesus brings you joy?

→ *Father in heaven,
Thank you that you are our forever joy! When we feel
sad or disappointed or happy and pleased help us to
remember You and all Your promises,*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



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DAY 11

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven
Born as a little baby under a wondrous star

*"Where is the one who has been born
king of the Jews? We saw his star when it
rose and have come to worship him."*

MATTHEW 2:2

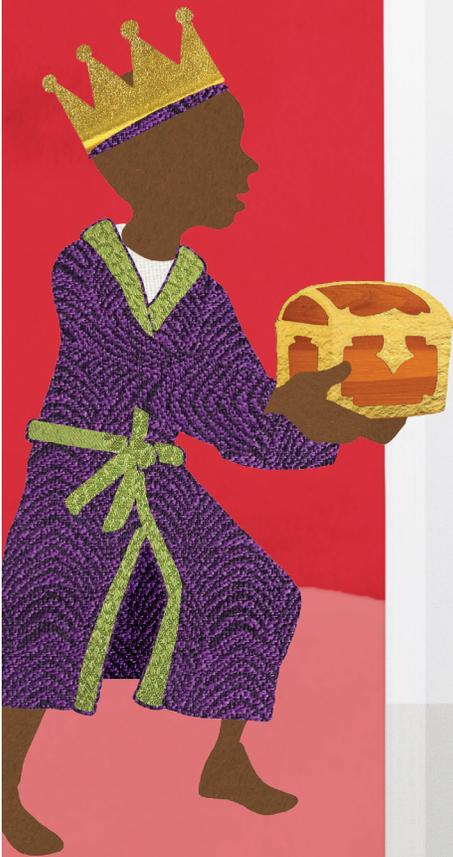
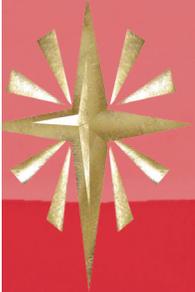
There was a real moment in time when Jesus was born as a baby. God told us of His arrival in many different ways—Bible verses written hundreds of years before He was born, the angel that visited Mary, Joseph's dream, an angel choir, the Shepherds, the wise men. In the first line of this carol the star is mentioned. God put a special star of light in the sky to lead people to Jesus. It was like a signpost saying, "This is the way."

But Jesus had always been in heaven before He was born on earth as a baby. John 1 says He was with God in the very beginning and that through Him everything was made in all creation. Sally Lloyd Jones wrote one of our favorite children's Christmas books called "The Song of the Stars." On the last page the picture shows Jesus asleep with His parents and the words say, "Heaven's Son sleeping under the stars that He made." It is an incredible thought! The Lord Jesus as a little baby sleeping beneath the stars HE had made. And He was underneath one particular star to tell us that He is King!

→ Can you think of other things the Lord has made in this earth that tell us about Him? (For example the seasons or a seed in the ground)

→ *Father in Heaven,
Thank you for the signposts that lead us to Jesus.
May we follow them to find you, our Savior!*

*In Jesus' Name,
Amen*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 12

Like us, crying he takes his first breath
Held by His mother helpless, close to her beating heart

"While (Mary and Joseph) were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son."

LUKE 2:6

When a baby is born the first thing you want to hear is their cry! It's the big sign that their little bodies are breathing in the air for the first time. After this I remember the doctor resting my babies on my chest so they could hear my heart beat. It brought them comfort. They knew the sound of my heart beat very well after growing so many months inside of me. At all the check ups the doctors would let me hear my slower heartbeat and their faster heartbeat. As I took care of each one at home they always liked to snuggle in close to my heart. Especially when they were upset.

Jesus also knew what this was like when He was with His mother—the cries of that first breath, feeling the cold, leaving the safe space of his mother's womb and now loving the safe space of her arms. It is a remarkable thing that the Lord would make Himself so small and so weak. He would cry our tears. He would feel our cold. He would know our fears. His heart would beat like ours so that He could bring life to us.

➔ How does His life on earth bring life to us?

➔ *Father in Heaven*

Thank you that you know what it is like to be a little child. Please help me not to be afraid. Please give strength to all those you have given to take care of me,

*In Jesus name,
Amen*



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25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



DAY 13

Jesus laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers
Come to turn me a stranger into a child of God

*"See what great love the Father has
lavished on us, that we should be called
children of God! And that is what we are!"*

1 JOHN 3:3

From the very beginning there were those who tried to stop people seeing and hearing the Lord Jesus. His parents would have to run away to Egypt when He was a baby to protect him from the wickedness of King Herod. Big and small Jesus faced all the things we do. Jesus came down to rescue us from the dangers and put us in the safety of His family.

My mum tells a story of when I was little and she was waiting for me to walk up from school like she did every day. But I must have walked by her and she didn't see me. It was raining and she found me banging on our back door shouting for her to let me in! I can't remember this at all. All I can remember is the mommy who always let me in. We do not need to stay as strangers to the Lord but are invited in as His friends, as His family—only He can open the door but He does to all of us who come to Him.

→ How do we become part of God's family?

→ *Father in Heaven,
Thank you for opening the door to us and making us
your children. May you give us courage as you are
with us through every danger,*

*In Jesus name
Amen*





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25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 14

Jesus King of the highest heaven
Learning to take his first steps, that He might bring us life

*"You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your
right hand there are pleasures forever."*

PSALM 16:11

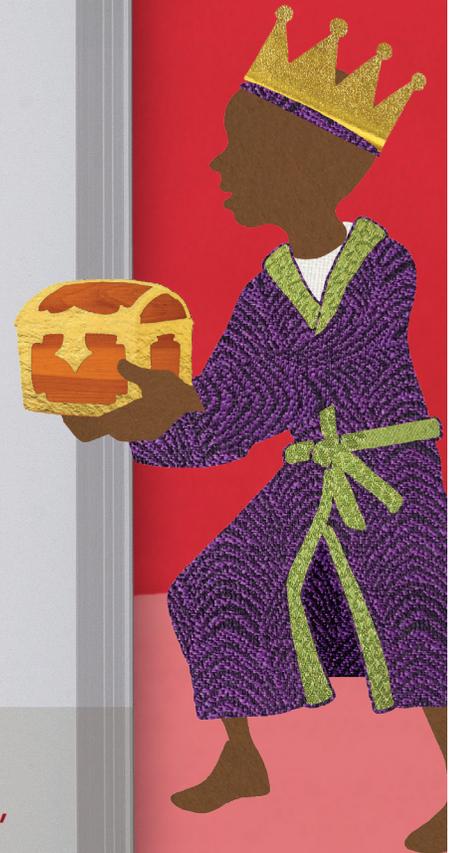
All our kids learned to walk early. What age were you when you learned to walk? You probably pushed down on someone's lap to strengthen your legs. Perhaps you crawled and then pulled yourself up beside a chair. Then someone held your hands as you toddled around the room. Then one day you took the first few steps on your own!

Can you believe that the Lord who designed and made every foot had to learn to walk Himself? The Bible doesn't tell us when he started to walk but He did. We read that He walked by seas and upon them. He climbed mountains to pray and wandered through villages preaching the good news. His steps would take Him to the cross where He would die for us to bring us life.

Joni Eareckson Tada has been in a wheel chair for over 50 years now. She loves the Lord. One of our daughters once asked her if she would ever walk again and she said 'Yes, because one day I will see Jesus and He will give me new legs'. Whether we can walk with our legs today or not we all needed the Lord to walk to the cross for us. One day all who have trusted in him will walk with Him in heaven. This is the hope we sing at Christmas and everyday!

→ What does it mean to walk like Jesus today?

→ *Father in Heaven,
Thank you for giving life to us. Help me to walk in all your ways,
In Jesus name
Amen*



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DAY 15

Like us knowing our smiles and sorrows
He showed the way to follow, a way that is true and right

"(Christ) comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

1 CORINTHIANS 1:4

Jeni's ice cream is a favorite ice cream place for our family. The girls grin from ear to ear when we go—so does their Dad because he loves ice cream! But we love when we can bring family and friends with us who have never been before—we can share and understand their smiles!

Two of our daughters started a new school this year. It was exciting but also a little scary walking in for the first time and making friends with children they had never met before. Recently another new girl started in Charlotte's class. It was a great opportunity for Charlotte to show kindness and friendship the way others had done that to her. She could share and understand this new friend's struggles and fears.

Jesus shares and understands our joy and pain in the fullest way possible because He became human like us. He shows us how to do what is right however we feel. He also comforts us so that we can comfort others. Christmas time can bring such a mixture of smiles and sadness to people. This is why it is so important to sing of the true meaning of Christmas. We must share the hope we all need and all can have.



Can you think of someone you can show comfort to today?



Father in Heaven,

Thank you that you smile with us in our joys. Thank you that you comfort us in every difficult time. Please help me to be a comfort to those who are hurting,

*In Jesus name,
Amen*



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DAY 16

Jesus take away every darkness, steady my simple footsteps
That I might in your goodness live as a child of God

*"This is the message we have heard from
him and proclaim to you, that God is light,
and in him is no darkness at all."*

1 JOHN 1:5

There are things we struggle with whether we are little or grown up. Some of you may be struggling with something at school or someone you love is sick. As we get older there are often more things we do have to think about. But there are many things that stay the same and are always important whatever age you are.

The main one is that God never changes—He is always the same and His promises always true. Another is that we always need to trust Him. This grows through the everyday things of reading His Word, praying, singing, serving one another. It's not like a toy we once loved but now seems too childish for us—we will never grow out of these things. They are things we can learn as children and keep learning better our whole lives. Many of the prayers I prayed and the songs I sang as a child I still pray and sing 30 years later.

We ask the Lord to help us follow Him step by step. Keep asking "Lord please 'steady my simple footsteps'". Always remember that like the night light that helps you sleep when it is dark He is Your light. He is with us and His Word teaches us how to follow Him every day. And so the older we get the more we will look like His child!

→ Have you learned to read the Bible and pray yourself?

→ *Father in Heaven,
Thank you that you never change. Thank you that you
help me to change, to become more like Jesus. Help me
to follow You as He did,*

*In Jesus name
Amen*



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25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 17 "JOY TO THE WORLD"

—The story behind the carol

*'Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth'.*

PSALM 98:8 & 9

'Joy to the World' is celebrating its 300th birthday! An English man called Isaac Watts wrote it. The lyrics were inspired by Psalm 98—that's where the Bible reading is from above.

It wasn't meant to be a Christmas Carol but the words remind us of all that Christmas means for us. The King has come and He is the Savior of the world and will set everything right. We welcome Him with worship, with singing and with lives that follow Him. Its melody and poetry are bursting with energy and joy. Every year at our Christmas concerts it is the last carol the band plays and sings with everyone.

This carol always reminds me of the words spoken about the great Lion Aslan in Lewis's Narnia stories

*"Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight.
At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more,
When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death.
And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again."*

Just like the bright green leaves burst out of the trees after a long winter Jesus brings new life to us. He came once before and will come again. When He does all will be made right!



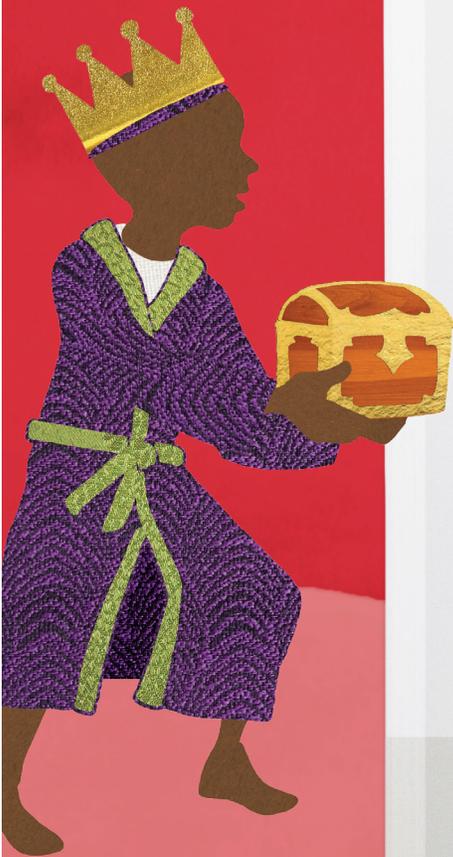
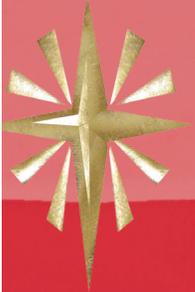
Why should all of the earth be joyful at the birth of Jesus?



Father in Heaven,

*Great is Your name in all the earth. Your kingdom
come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*

*In Jesus name,
Amen*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 18

Joy to the world the Lord is
come let earth receive her King

*'Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in
righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.'*

PSALM 96:13

Have you ever been to an airport and watched people meeting up with family and friends? You can see someone searching through a crowd and then suddenly they find the one they are longing to see and they rush into a huge hug! Maybe that person has been you! We live thousands of miles away from our family in Northern Ireland and so have seen our girls run screaming with delight across an airport into their grandparents arms!

There are so many things that God has given us to enjoy. But the greatest joy for the world is that God Himself has come to us. And we can welcome Him in! We praise Him and follow Him as our King.

Just like we all need air to breathe we were made to need God—to love Him and to delight in Him. He is the perfect King of all the world! So we take a deep breath in and sing 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come' to remind ourselves and to share this happiness with others!!

➔ How can we 'receive', welcome the King?

➔ *Father in Heaven,
Thank you that Jesus' birth brings us great happiness and
gladness and that we can know you as our King and greatest
friend! As so many do not know please help me to share the
joy of You with others,
In Jesus name,*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



DAY 19

Let every heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

MATTHEW 2:11

Have you ever thought about how much is done to get ready for Christmas?! The cooking, the cleaning, the shopping, the sorting, the wrapping, the giving, the schedules...it gets very busy! The hope is to make a warm and special space to celebrate the season and the coming of the Savior together. We are preparing the space and making room for this together time to happen.

But sometimes we can get so busy we have so little space to remember the Lord! Just like the guest rooms in Bethlehem had no room for Mary and Joseph we can have no room in our hearts, in our thoughts, in our time to make Him our most precious treasure.

In the busyness of Christmas taking time to sing together is a wonderful way to help us fill our minds and hearts with all the Lord has done. It helps us remember why we celebrate Christmas and to thank Him for it.



What other ways can we 'prepare Him room' not just for Christmas but every day?



Father in Heaven,

Thank you that you are our greatest treasure. May we make lots of room this Christmas to praise and adore You,

*In Jesus name,
Amen*





JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 20

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
let men their songs employ

*Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains
sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.*

PSALM 98:8-9

This carol is 300 years old. That means so many people have sung it over the years. So many kids just like you! It has been sung through many war times and peace times. From the beginnings of America as a country to the year Neil Armstrong walking on the moon. Think of all the Kings and Queens and Presidents who have lived and died in that time. Think of all the different languages and places it has been sung in around the world. Like...

"Alegría al mundo, que reina el Salvador!"
"Joie pour le monde, le sauveur regne!"

All those who have sung these words are remembering something very wonderful. Something that always stays the same no matter what happens. God is always ruling over the universe. His arm does not grow tired. His hand is not weak. He does not sleep. Psalm 98 tells us that He is our good and fair judge, Keeper of all that is good and right. This makes all creation burst with happiness! God sees everything, knows how to fix it and will fix it. We can trust Him.

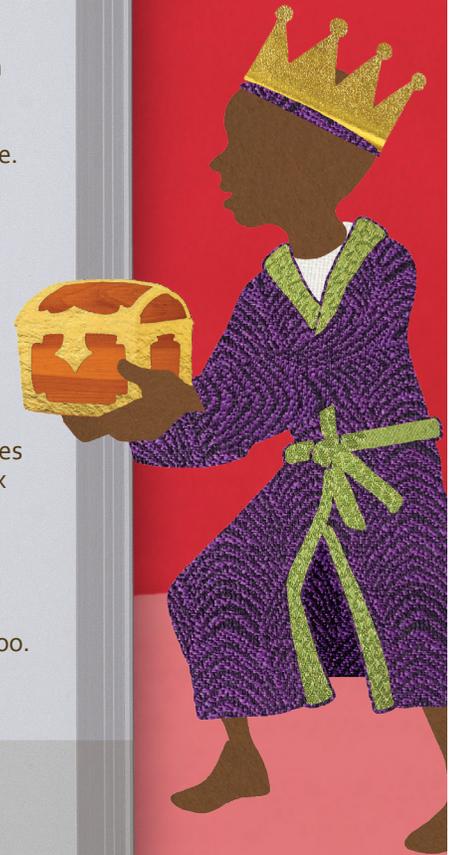
So we can be like all those kids and grown ups that sang this before us. When things seem very difficult we must hold on tight to all that God has said. And we must keep singing so that we can pass this song onto the children that are not born yet! They will really need to know these things too.

→ Why should we be happy that God reigns over everything?

→ *Father in Heaven*

*Thank you that you perfectly reign over everything always.
Help me to love You more and more and so love all Your
ways more and more.*

*In His name,
Amen*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 21

While fields and floods, rocks hills
and plains repeat the sounding joy

"...the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices... "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!...Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

LUKE 19:37-40

All the things that God has made show and tell His great power. The sky that reaches further than anyone can see. The song the crickets make when they rub their little wings together. The great splashing sound of a waterfall rushing down a mountain side.

Luke 19 tells us about a time when Jesus' disciples were shouting out praises to Him. There were some who were angry as they didn't believe He was the Son of God. They tried to stop it! But Jesus said 'If they keep quiet the stones will cry out!'

He has made you to sing. Even if your voice doesn't seem very good to you He has given you a voice to praise Him! He doesn't need us to—the rocks could cry out in praise! But it is amazing that He wants us to and that we can. It is a great privilege, a very special gift that He has given to us. We join with all the sounds and songs of creation to praise Him.



When we learn a new song or a Bible verse we learn it by repeating it over and over again don't we? Then we don't forget it. The fields and mountains and rocks remind us over and over again that the Lord is Creator and Joy of the world. We are to keep repeating it too as we sing! Singing helps us to remember.



Father in Heaven,

Thank you for creating us to sing! As we praise You may we remember again and again all the great things You have done.

*In Jesus name
Amen*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 22

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground

'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.'

GENESIS 3:17-18

Our home in Northern Ireland has a big field out the back and our daughters like to hunt for wild flowers. They can sometimes be hard to get to because so many thistles and thorns grow up beside them. No matter how often they are pulled out those weeds keep coming back!

When God first made the earth He planted a perfect garden and Adam and Eve made their home there. When they disobeyed God even the ground was damaged by their sin. Thorns and weeds began to grow making it very hard work to grow food and take care of the land.

The sin in our own hearts is very like the thorns and weeds that grow on the ground. Beside beautiful things like love and joy and kindness ugly thorns of hate and worry and pain grow in us too. Jesus came to remove every thorn and weed. The ones in the fields and the ones in our heart. He helps us see and pull away the weeds of sin. He gives us comfort when we are sad. Because of His death on the cross we have forgiveness and life and hope. One day He will make the earth and us completely new again—every thorn will be gone!



Father in Heaven,

Thank you for forgiving my sin. Thank you for the joy of knowing what is good and right. While we learn and follow You remind us always that one day we will be in a perfect garden again with you!

*In Jesus name
Amen*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



DAY 23 He comes to make his blessing flow far as the curse is found

*"Come now, let us settle the matter,"
says the Lord.*

*"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;"*

ISAIAH 1:18

Do you love the snow? When I was little, I had always dreamed of having snow at Christmas. But in Northern Ireland we don't often get snow in December! When I was about 15 years old, I was at the late-night Christmas Eve service at church. When church was over, we came outside and it had been snowing and I walked home (I lived beside the Church) in all the quiet, glistening white wonder. Everything was covered—the yards, the streets, the trees, the houses. There was nowhere the white snow had not covered and it was so beautiful.

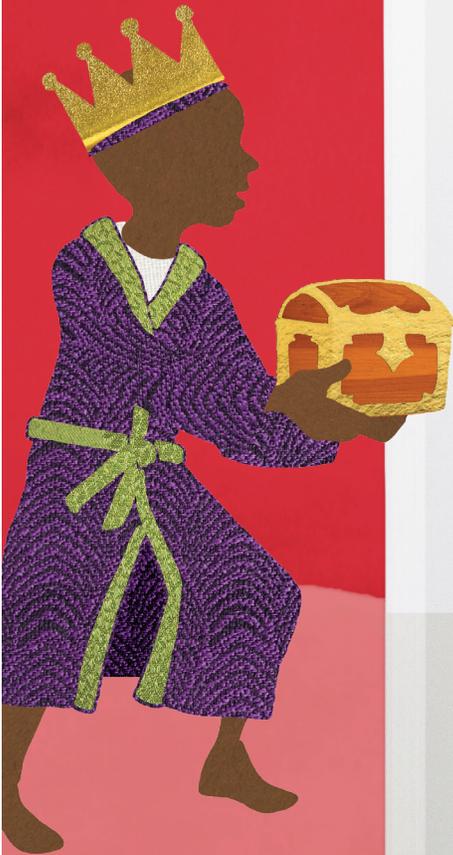
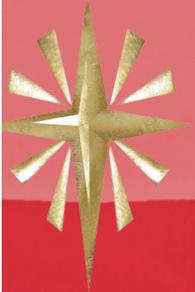
The kindness of the Lord has gone over all the world! Everywhere sin has broken and bruised He is able to make better again—the earth and all who live on it. Like the snow on my walk home there is nowhere His grace and forgiveness cannot cover. He can make everything clean, as white as snow. This is the good news of Christmas!



Father in Heaven,

Thank you that you can completely forgive us and make us clean inside. You have given us everything we need to have peace with You! We praise You for this marvelous gift!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DAY 24

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove

"The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them."

PSALM 145:17-19

There was once a lady called Helen Roseveare. She was a doctor and a missionary to Africa for many years. She had many difficult times there because the country that she worked in was at war and was a dangerous place. Those that ruled did not rule with "truth and grace." Still she stayed and helped many hear the good news of the Good King, Jesus. I met her before she died, and she was an old lady with beautiful white hair and shining eyes. When she talked about the Lord, she looked like a little girl on Christmas morning—so excited, so thankful, full of hope. Even though she had seen such sad things she trusted in the King who would never do wrong, who would keep every promise, who would care for her always.

God knows everything and is in charge of everything. It is incredible that He is also the One who gives perfect love, forgiveness and help to all who come to Him.



Father in Heaven,

Thank you that you are the ruler of the world and that you are always good and kind and true. Help me to trust in your goodness and all your promises and to share them with others,

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



JOY!

GETTY KIDS DEVOTIONAL

25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



DAY 25 The glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love

*"But from everlasting to everlasting the
Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his
righteousness with their children's children."*

PSALM 103:17

Over the years since Jesus was born families and friends have often spent part of Christmas time singing carols together. Maybe by a piano, or by the fire in their home or 'round the dinner table. It doesn't happen as much today. But it would be great if it did!! It is a wonderful way to show we are family as we share the same tune and the same melody at the same time. We show we belong to each other and to the Lord. All over the world families who love the Lord tell the wonders of His love in their own lives. We remind one another that He is the true King.

These devotions have gone through three carols. Hopefully you have learned at least some of them and understand them better! Hopefully they have helped you sing with your family. Below is a short carol service you could do together that includes readings and a prayer.

Thank you for singing with us!

MERRY CHRISTMAS CAROLERS!



FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

READING 1

Prophesy from Long Ago

ISAIAH 9:2 & 6 (NIV)

"The people walking in darkness
Have seen a great light;
On those living in the land of deep darkness
A light has dawned.

For unto us a child is born,
To us a son is given,
And the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



JOY TO THE WORLD

Words by Isaac Watts
Melody by Lowell Mason

Energetic (♩ = 105)



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re - ceive her King! Let
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their songs em - ploy, Whiule
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Northorns in - fest theground: He
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, Andmakes the na - tionsprove The



ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, And heav-en and na - ture sing, and
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
comes to make His bles - sings flow Far as the curse is found, far
glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness And won - ders of his love, and



heav-en and na - ture sing, and hea - v'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
- peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

READING 2

The Christmas Story

LUKE 2:4-14 (NIV)

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"



ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

French Carol Melody
Lyrics by James Chadwick

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see He Whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the mount - ains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strain:
What the glad - some ti - dings be, whic in - spire your heav'n - ly songs?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King;

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a

unis.
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!
unis.

JOY HAS DAWNED

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

With Life (♩ = 116)

D Em⁷ D/F# Asus A Bm⁷ Em⁷ D/A A

1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion:
 2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels,
 3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry;
 4. Son of A - dam, Son of Heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;

D Em⁷ D/F# Asus A Bm⁷ Em⁷ Asus A D

God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - ery na - tion.
 as the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
 Gifts of men from dis - tant lands pro - phes - y a sto - ry.
 Re - con - cil - ing God and man - Christ our might - y Champ - ion!

D/F# G D/F# Em Asus A Bm⁷ Em⁷ D/F# D/A A A⁷

Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
 Gold, a King is born to - day; In - cense, God is with us;
 What a Sav - iour, what a Friend, what a glo - rious mys - t'ry:

D Em⁷ D/F# Asus A Bm⁷ Em⁷ Asus A D

but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus, born of Ma - ry.
 cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
 Myrrh, His death will make a way and by His blood He'll win us.
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

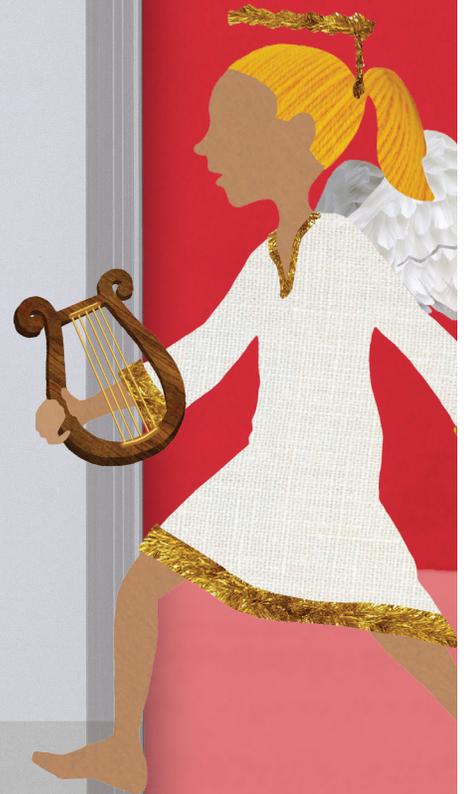


PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank you for making this story of Christmas known to our family. We thank you that we can join the angels in heaven and families all over the world to sing this good news of great joy that is for all people—a Savior has been born to us! May we know your deep and steady joy throughout this Christmas season and share it with all those we meet,

In Jesus' name, the friend of little children, we pray

Amen



JESUS, JOY OF THE HIGHEST HEAVEN

Words and Music by
Keith & Kristyn Getty

Slow & Simple (♩ = 66)

D G/D D A/C#F#m⁷ Bm A G D/F#Em⁷ A⁷sus⁴ DSus D

1. Je - sus, joy of the high - est Heav - en, born as a lit - tle ba - by un - der a won - drous star.
2. Je - sus, joy of the high - est Heav - en, learn - ing to take His first steps that He might bring us life.

D G/D D A/C#F#m⁷ Bm A G D/F# Em⁷ A⁷sus⁴ DSus D

Like us, cry - ing, he takes His first breath, held by His mo - ther, help - less, close to her beat - ing heart.
Like us, know - ing our smiles and sor - rows, He showed the way to fol - low, a way that is true and right.

G G AG/BD/AD/F#D/F# G Em D/F#G D/F# D A/C#F#m⁷ Bm A⁷

Je - sus, laid in a low - ly man - ger, fac - ing a world of dan - gers; come to turn me, a
Je - sus, take a - way ev - ery dark - ness; Stead - y my sim - ple foot - steps that I might, in Your

G D/F#Em⁷ A⁷sus⁴

1. D G/D D A⁷sus⁴/D D G/D D A⁷sus⁴/D D

stran - ger, in - to a child of God.
good - ness, live as a child of God.

2. D