

**This information brought to you by your Association of Unity Churches..**

## **A Christmas Blessing**

### **PRELUDE:**

#### ***The Hallelujah Chorus***

by George F. Handel  
(an organ and piano duet)

#### **Scripture: Isaiah 9:2,6-7; 11:2-4**

#### ***The Prophecy of Isaiah***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined...

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this...

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 by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity of the meek of the earth...

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### **---Interpretation---**

Some 700 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed his coming. In you and me, Isaiah represents the earliest recognition, within our soul, of a higher self.

Isaiah represents that, within us, which is capable of discerning more to life than physical and material satisfaction.

The Isaiah of us holds to this realization throughout all time, until such time as we are capable of realizing and bringing into full light the expression of our true individual Christ identity.

## **Hymn 1**

### ***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

(Solo or congregation or choir)

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;

Chorus: O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

O sing, choirs of angles; sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Chorus

### **Scripture: Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-5** ***The Annunciation Story***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary.

### **---Interpretation of Mary---**

*Mary, wife of Joseph and mother of Jesus.*

In each of us, Mary represents the embodiment of spiritual love. Mary is that within you and me that expresses total willingness to God's perfect love filling our soul.

Perfect love, divine love, goes beyond all barriers and seeks only good for self and all of God's creation throughout the universe. Any mind and heart filled with God's love opens only to the eventuality of good coming forth in every aspect of life.

This love is unyielding in its expression of good for at its very foundation it has the power of God to overcome all adversity; yet it is the gentlest by nature because of the inner knowing that comes with seeking to let God be made manifest and the conscious

realization: God approves of me!!

Out of this love is born the depth of your clear expression and understanding of your true self, your Christ-self; I AM: a child of God!

### **---Interpretation of Joseph---**

*Joseph, husband of Mary and father of Jesus.*

Within each one of us is the strength and wisdom necessary to guide and protect the perfect expression of God's divine love seeking expression through our soul; the Joseph of you and me is the bearer of this strength and wisdom.

Sometimes others will suggest that this love is not good for you and its expression is making a fool of you. Deep within your own soul, you know, once this love is realized, the only true satisfaction in life comes when your mind is one with the love of your heart. Trust the Joseph in you to nourish, comfort, protect, and guide this love and the radiant good that is to come forth from this union.

### **---Annunciation Story Continued---**

"And he came to her and said, 'Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. 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.""

"...In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinus was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city 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 enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child."

### **Hymn 2**

#### ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

(Choir or congregation)

O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see the lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever-lasting light;  
The hopes and Fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While Mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O Morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth;  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

**Scripture: Luke 2:6-7**  
***Placed in the Manger***

"And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

**---Interpretation of the Manger---**

*The manger, found in the stable, surrounded by less than the finest luxuries of Life.*

Time and again throughout our spiritual growth we are called upon to put forth the best that is within us. The manger is here to evidence the truth that wherever you allow God to work through you, you make of it a holy place.

No matter how humble the surroundings or unimportant the occurrence, God is there and he will protect you and bless you. God is in all and through all things, you can always trust God!

Think of the manger each time you are called upon to do your best in a situation that does not seem quite worthy of you!

**Hymn 3**  
***Away in the Manger***

Away in the manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the 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 by cradle till morning is nigh.

**Scripture: Luke 2:8-14**  
***The Angels' Song***

"And in that 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, "B e not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to 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 babe 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 men with whom he is pleased!"

**---Interpretation of the Angles---**

*Angels of God bearing tidings of great joy.*

As we become willing to bear the Christ child within our own being, angels, messengers of God thoughts direct from the mind of God come to us beating the truth of our being.

Angels are the messengers of Truth for you, they assure you that good and only good can be made manifest through you. They assure you that there is nothing to fear and what they have to share with you is indeed cause for joy and only joy. The angel of God is the still small voice of God within you that thunders in the silence.

The angel of God directs and guides you into the discovery of your tme Christ self. The mighty realization allows you to drop the wall of separation between you and others and become one with all of mankind.

We are one in God. And God is one in us!

**Hymn 4**  
***It Came Upon A Midnight Clear***

(solo or congregation or choir)

It came upon a midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old.

From Angels bending hear the earth  
to touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
from Heaven's all glorious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

For Lo! The days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

**Scripture: Luke 2:15-20**  
***The Shepherds Response***

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 babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept 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."

**--Interpretation of the Shepherds--**

*The shepherds who watched over, guarded and protected the flocks.*

The Twenty-third Psalm has often been referred to as the shepherd's prayer and Jesus would come to be known as the good shepherd. They shepherds of your mind are those thoughts that lead us in paths of righteousness; they guard, guide and protect us when thoughts of fear and anxiety would consume our energies. They restore our soul to peace and harmony.

Although the shepherds of our mind are not the highest within us, they are quick to acknowledge and joyfully surrender to our highest and best self. They are among the first to know when we have finally come to the joyful realization of who and what we really are.

**Hymn 5**  
***The First Noel***

(choir, solo, or congregation)

The first Noel the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds, in field where they lay,  
In field where they lay a keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave a great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

Chorus

**Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2**  
***The Quest of the Wise Men***

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.'"

**---Interpretation of the Wise Men---**

*The three wise men who traveled from the East to worship the newborn king.*

As long as we remain governed by the physical, material self, the wisdom of our true spiritual self must remain far off and out of view, buried deep within our soul. For so long we have been completely unaware of these hidden powers of God within our being and as the Christ child is born, these powers can and do come forth.

As we come to recognize the truth of our being, these wise men, the powers of our spiritual self, come as further evidence, bearing gifts of the great spiritual resources that have always been within. These newly discovered truths about yourself are: The Gold which shows you the richness of your spiritual nature; the Frankincense which shows you the beauty of your true nature; and the Myrrh which reveals the eternal perfection of your life in God.

**Hymn 6**  
***We Three Kings***

(choir or congregation)

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

O Star of wonder, star of night,  
star of royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God and sacrifice;  
Al le lu ia, Al le lu ia!  
sounds thro the earth and skies.

O Star of wonder, star of night,  
star of royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

**Scripture: Matthew 2:3-8**  
***Herod Begins to Realize***

"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 govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star 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.'"

**---Interpretation of Herod---**

*Herod, the Roman ruler over Judea.*

It is good to note that Judea means, "Praise Jehovah." Herod represents, to us, the ruling will of the physical. The ego in the sense consciousness. As long as Herod is in control, "Praise of God, the Source of all Good," is put aside and Herod worships the physical material pleasures.

Once the ego is born in the higher self, the Christ child, Herod still seeks to rule and will decree that the new born child be put to death. We know that with the protection of Joseph and Mary, Jesus does not suffer this decree but lives to grow and mature into the full expression of the Christ self.

The full understanding of life eternal is brought forth in the realization to the spiritual being's ability to lay the body down and take it up again as evidenced in the Easter miracle. Herod must release his control that this new born king may rule.

**Scripture: Matthew 2:9-10**  
***The Stars' Guiding Light***

"When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."

**---Interpretation of the Star---**

*The star in the East which shown over the stable and guided the wise men.*

In us, this star represents the illumination of our intuitive faculty of mind. That within us which allows us to say, "I know that I know and this is all I need know!" Sometimes it will appear only as a dim flicker in the awesome sky of your mind, but as you recognize its inspiration and follow it, it becomes brighter and more familiar.

The gift of guiding light which leads you to your highest good is God's love leading you on. This light may shine through others, it may appear in books or places but it will always shine in you! Trust this light, follow this light; it will not fail you or lead you astray for it is attracted to only the good and the true.

*NOTE: If it is going to take several minutes (5-8) to light candles, now is the time to begin lighting the candles. (Put candle-lighting instructions in your bulletin.)*

**Scripture: Matthew 2:11-12**  
***Visit the Holy Child***

"...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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way."

**---Interpretation of the Holy Child---**

*Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary, descendant of the House of David.*

It is good to note here that David is the son of Jesse and in Hebrew the root meaning for Jesse is: Jar, Jehovah, or I AM.

When we are firm in our inner relationship with God, then is born David or Divine Love individualized and matures into the full realization of the inner Christ. From the lineage or expression of divine love is born the holy child to lift the spiritual consciousness of all mankind.

Behold, unto you is born, this day, the Son of God!

## **Hymn 7**

### ***Silent Night, Holy Night***

(Congregation/all)

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!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glorious stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing ale-lu-ia,  
Christ the savior, is born!  
Christ the savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*NOTE: If it doesn't take more than a couple of minutes to light the candles, now is the best time. (Lower lights as Silent Night is sung and candles are lit.)*

## **Scripture: Luke 2:10-14**

### ***Christ Is Born In You***

"And the angel said to them 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great

joy which will come to all the people; for to 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 babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

### **---Interpretation of the Indwelling Christ---**

*Christ child, son of God, Savior of self is born of Mary and Joseph in you!*

In you and in me, the Christ child is the sum total of all the good; which is our true spiritual self. The Christ in you is born out of your very nature--just as God created you out of himself. The Christ of you is that within you which draws you in and dissolves all sense of separation between God and you. The Christ in you and me reaches beyond all sense of two people and draws forth the one presence in all the universe. We come to know and experience the eternal truth--we are one in God!!

### **---Conclusion of Scripture---**

"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 men with whom he is pleased!'"

### **Hymn 8**

#### ***Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

(Congregation)

Hark the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinner reconciled!  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The Herald Angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adores,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Come, desire of nations, come,  
Fix in us thy humble home.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
Hail the incarnate deity.  
Pleased as man with men to dwell;  
Jesus our Emanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the Heaven-born prince of peace!  
Hail, the son 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 newborn King!"

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As you read the scriptural references to the Christmas story, you may also like to refer to these brief definitions for various aspects within the story. Let God do His perfect work in you; ask, how do I find, see, or hear this aspect of me? What is it doing in me, for me, to me?

For further study, please see the *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, *The Revealing Word*, or Charles Fillmore's concordance. God bless you!

**Isaiah the Prophet:** A teacher, one who receives the inspiration of Spirit, and understanding of Spiritual law and imparts it to others. The prophet in you and me is what Jesus would call the Comforter. Jn. 14:26

**Fear the Lord:** To look upon and live the Law of God with reverence and respect.

**Fear in the world:** The absence of Spiritual understanding in reference to what is happening.

**Lord:** The Creative Power of God within us; our Christ-Self. The Holy Spirit of God within each person.

**Angel Gabriel:** Mighty man of God; hero of God; God is my strength. That within us which supports all spiritual growth and gives us the strength to believe in the midst of doubt.

**Nazareth:** That area of mind in man where the simple Truth is accepted and applied regardless of how complicated the rest of us would like to make it.

**Virgin:** As used in this story, represents the intuitive, feeling nature not yet influenced

by the intellectual concepts of God. Thus capable of receiving direct inspiration from God.

**Mary, Mother of Jesus:** Represents the Divine Feeling nature within us, our intuitive ability to know God and in so knowing God, fill our being with the inspiration of our own indwelling Christ Self. Mary is Divine Love willing to express fully in the world of mankind.

**Joseph:** In this story represents wisdom. After his visit by the Angel, Joseph brought Spiritual Judgment together with Spiritual Understanding. He came to realize that Imagination can conceive yet in trusting God, one can gain wisdom.

**House of David:** The House (state of mind)of Divine Love individualized. Jesus was" of the House of David; as is the Christ born in the House of Love within each individual.

**Men of the Bible:** Represents the intellect and the myriad of thoughts and attitudes we have about everything.

**Women of the Bible:** Represents the feeling nature and myriad of feelings and intuitions we have about everything.

**Jesus:** Born of Mary is the perfect idea of God for man in manifestation in this world. Our second birth is to come consciously into the realization that what Jesus lived, we, in Truth, are also.

**Lord God:** The Holy Spirit of God within each individual; indwelling Spirit of God expressing as understanding Love. The fullness of God individualized within His creation.

**House of Jacob:** The earliest identity within each individual to realize: I am a Child of God, heir to His Kingdom. That within us to first begin sincerely affirming our true Spiritual nature.

**His Kingdom:** Kingdom of Heaven. Each facet of our life which we are willing to consciously or unconsciously surrender to Divine Guidance; letting the indwelling Christ, God individualized rule.

**Cyrenius:** Fixed state of thought in the realm of sense, that rise up and oppose the further progress of Spiritual ideas. Cesar Augustus: One of those fixed states of thought.

**Governor of Syria:** Intellectual pride; ruler of the ego which seeks to put aside or kill the True Spiritual Insights and Guidance of the heart.

**Bethlehem:** House of Bread, the abiding place of substance. Physically it is the pit of the stomach where universal substance joins the refined or spiritualized chemical products of the body substance.

**Mary being great with Child:** Spiritual Love and Intuition filling and transforming the physical body to its true state of being. A spiritual step out of ignorance and materiality into the conscious realization: "God is my Source."

**First-born Son:** The ah-ha of intuition entering the intellect, the conscious realization.

**Swaddling clothes:** Confinement to the limitations of the physical nature; because there was no room in the inn (outer consciousness).

**Manger:** Represents the physical life of the body in which the new life is first manifested.

**Judea:** Means the Praise of Jehovah; the key to our personal Christ birth is that of praising God in all and through all we think, say and do. As we think, or that which we praise is that which shall come to pass.

**Herod the King:** Ruling will of the Physical, the ego in the sense consciousness. As are all things of the ego, his rule is temporal as compared to Christ whose rule shall know no end.

**Wise Men from the East:** The resources which have accumulated within the soul since time began which patiently wait until the soul is prepared to receive the wisdom of Christ consciousness. Praise, prayer and service stir this wisdom and bring it into conscious knowing through the action taken today and each day.

**Jerusalem:** Habitation of peace. That place in prayer which we enter and experience the Peace that passes Understanding. That which we bring forth into the world as our life is based on Spiritual principle: God is my Source.

**Star in the East:** Represents the inner conviction of our Divine sonship. This conviction has helped countless individuals to succeed where others who did not have it yet, and were of equal ability, failed. To follow an inner conviction, the intuition that says, "Yes, this can be accomplished." The East represents inner wisdom and the star represents a not fully realized or understood and as yet remote.

**Chief Priests:** Those thoughts which rule over our "natural" yet not necessarily "spiritual" religious tendencies. We need to move beyond ritual into Spiritual. Scribes: Thoughts based upon outer authority.

**Shepherds:** That within us which turns us to God for guidance and understanding in all things.

**Angel of the Lord:** Messengers of God; direct Spiritual insight which comes forth in one willing to seek God's guidance.

**Gift of the Wise Men:** Represents the qualities of mind given by Divine Wisdom. Gold: Riches of Spirit; most universally accepted as representative of riches and wealth. Frankincense: Beauty of Spirit; one of the richest of all perfumes and represents the transmutation of material things to Spiritual essences; i.e., the manifestation of disease into health. Myrrh: Eternity of Spirit, the Power of Love. It is an aromatic gum resin and as a symbol of love, we are to anoint ourselves and others with the fulfillment of love made manifest.

**Warned by God in a Dream:** A visionary creation of the imagination. Spiritual intuition received in visual symbology.

**The Wise Men Returned to Their Own Country:** They had entered the conscious mind with gifts and praise; they returned to the Spiritual source of wisdom into which we consciously go as we seek guidance. The wisdom of the Wise Men is always within and free for our asking.

**Mary Pondered Them in Her Heart:** To decide how to express one's highest motives, centered in love and for the highest and best good.

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