kept on thinking about the day

he had. He said to himself, I

want to go again. When the next

morning came, he said to his

mother and father, "I want to

Susan Welb Lehman

Spirit of Christmas

go again.

As we gaze about on these December days, we see signs of Christmas everywhere. The store windows are filled with the glitter and tinsel and ribbon. Daily decorated shops and streets give the feeling of Christmas. One cannot help being moved by all the external reminders of the beautiful Feast of Christ's Birth.

One cannot help catching the spirit and even those who had firmly resolved not to engage in Christmas shopping are once more enmeshed in that yearly routi. All this is as it should be provided that what is more important is not neglected.

Thereshould be the real spirit of Christmas in the heart of each and every individual. It is far more important that Christmas live internally within the heart of each individual than that Christmas gifts be lavished far and wide to friends and loved ones.

The Infant Jesus was born into the world, sent by the Divine Father, to bring peace Lord Has Come.' and joy and love of one another into the heart of man. It would seem this year of 1971 His message has been forgotten as we see war, unrest, hostility toward one's neighbor on every side. In the streets of our cities and towns violence and hatred reign supreme. One cannot help thinking how necessary it is to contentment.

On this Christmas we ask the

Christmas Eve

For the first audience on this ear to hear of His birth, Almighty God singled out unlettered and despised shepherds whom the high and mighty in Jerusalem society considered to be of the lowest caste. These insignificant shepherds were not only the first humans to announce His birth to the townspeople of Bethlehem, but of all the peoples in the world, they were No green grass, also the first, after Mary and Just a white blanket of snow Joseph, to fall on their knees and adore Jesus Christ in the

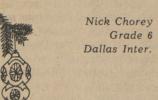
In what more striking way Bare trees, gray leaves, could God impress us! High prestige and standing among men are in themselves of no particular significance to God. The people in the Cave of Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph and the shepherds gathered around the Infant Saviour, found favor with God not because of their standing with men, but because of their inner goodness, their holy relationship with our Divine Lord. The real measure of our worth is how we stand in with God, not with man. This is the only way we too can hope to please God and enjoy the privilege of His Divine Friendship.

May the Christ Child, the Son of God, one day bring each of us and all our loved ones, present and absent, to our true and everlasting home in Heaven where we, like the lowly shepherds of old, shall be favored and loved by our God for all eternity.

> **Father Sammons** St. Therese's Church,

Christmas

Christmas is a time of year When faces show a cheer Everyone is happy and gay, Too bad it couldn't Always be that way It really is a time of fun And is enjoyed by everyone



A Song in the Air

The well-known missionary to India and also world lecturer and writer, Dr. E. Stanley Jones, has told a story of a little boy who stood before a picture of his absent father. He turned to his mother and wistfully said. "I wish father would step out of Grade 4 the picture." That boy expressed in his own way the deep desire for his father to step from the picture into his life.

> We, who have gazed upon the picture of God in nature and philosophy, are grateful but never satisfied. There is that need for us better expressed "O, for a warm heart in the universe." If only the Father would step from the picture into our reality. Listen! There's a song in the air. That message says the Father stepped from the picture at Bethlehem. "The Word became a human being and lived among us"...(John 1:14 T.E.V.). That is the meaning of Christmas. Jesus is Immanuel-God with us. As I look at the character and life of Jesus, I know what God is like. it is groovy. Out a sight! Now to

The shepherds listened, they heard and they went. The advantage of our faith is this: the Christmas Word became embodied in a Person who lives in me. "Be born in us today" the Carol writer penned. Let the shepherds be our example in our readiness to say "Yes" to God's invitation. Let us be glad and rejoice today because "the

God Speaks

The glorious fact that we remember in the Christmas Season is that God does speak to us, again and again, in many ways and in every need of life.

He speaks to us through the return to the peace of Christmas majesty and beauty of His in each individual heart that all creation. He speaks to us in the the evil of a modern day society record of man's experience may be replaced by love and through history, and He speaks next time! Man it's Groovy in one's fellow man. Since charity to us in our personal extowards one's neighbors can periences. When we take a long only be God-inspired and only and sensitive look at our own the heart that truly welcomes lives, we can see ways in which the Infant Christ this Christmas God has spoken, often in times of 1971 can find real peace and of deepest difficulty and suf-

But above all, God has spoken Infant Christ to bring true peace to us in Jesus Christ. This is the and charity to the hearts of all meaning of Christmas. This is why the writer of the Fourth Gospel begins his message to GATE OF HEAVEN CHURCH the world by saying, "And the Rev. Thomas M. Jordan Word became Flesh." God Pastor came in the Christ to reveal Himself to us and to show us how life is to be lived.

May our response to the Word of lives through which God can Christmas. A King was born. speak to others through us.

> The Rev. John S. Prater Prince of Peace Church

Summer's Gone

No more birds I just don't know!

No more color green, Not one more crop Not even a bean!

Ice has covered the pond, No more color blue, Nice colored hedges Are covered with hue!

> Jim Davis Grade 5 Lehman Elem.

Dallas Inter.

The Present From my Mother

The present from my mother Was wrapped oh so sweet It wasn't a pair of mittens But a great big treat!

I found it on the window sill Right above my bed I knew I couldn't open it then But looked at it instead!





Michelle Chapple Grade 5 Dallas Inter.

"The Hobo's Dr

Once upon a time the Hobo, his name was H and his dog named Dul of all this Hobo and wished for Xmas, but the it was impossible.

One day Hobo Joe an were walking along the r just dreaming. They dec take a rest on a bench ar a sudden he hears a "l

'What was that?" "Psssss"

"Where are you?"

"Over here by the tree" 'What tree? There's millions

'The oak tree' And there sitting on a rock

was a Little Elf "What do you want?"

"I don't want anything" "Alls I want is too give you three wishes" "Really?"

Well first of all I would like to have some food for my dog.' 'Second I would like food and clothes plus a place to sleep."

'Then last I would like to have Christmas. Because I never had Christmas in my

whole life' "Really?" asked the elf. "Neither did I" 'Would you like to spend

Christmas with Duke and I?' Then Hobo Joe and Duke and of course the elf lived happily

> Rosie Mever Grade 6-B Lehman Elem.

The Groovy Elf

How I dig this workshop. Man make a groovy sportscar. I dig the sound of this hammer. And this saw is out a sight. Listen to the sound of this groovy drill. There it's finished. Now to see how this groovy engine shounds. Blum blum blum blum. Groovy! Now to see how it rides. This is out of sight to. Boy these power brakes. And this power The Merry Time of Christmas steering. This car is groovy!

Now to have another brainstorm. It's coming. A robot, I'll get to work. Man I can't resist these tools. Later. This is groovy! I bet he is ten feet tall! I'll turn it on. Oh no! I forgot to say I was his master! I'll jump in my sportscar. Blum blum blum. Screech! This wind is groovy! My hair blowing in the wind. Oh no! Here comes that tin can again. I'll try to head him off. Yikes he is picking me up! I'll tell you what happened

> Billy Weaver Lehman

Christmas

On Christmas Eve everyone knows that Santa Claus comes, and you get presents. But does anyone know why we have this holiday? I'll tell you. Because in a manager far away, a King was born of Mary. God told her to name him Jesus. When Jesus was born, a great star came to the sky. It was a beautiful star. The three wise men followed this Christmas tide be the living that star. That is why we have



Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas And lots of joys To all little girls. And little boys And for the grownups Grandparents too. The Christmas season Is also for you!

> Neal Yerabeck Grade 5

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"We Make Warm Friends"

Christmas

Christmas is fun. Christmas is joy. Christmas is fun. For a girl or a boy

THE DALLAS POST, DEC. 21, 1971

Westmoreland Parent Teachers' Association have elected of-

ficers, who met recently at the Christmas-decorated school.

They are, left to right, Georgiena Weidner, treasurer; Mrs.

George Coolbaugh, secretary; Stanley McMinn, president; Mrs.

Earl Gregory, vice president; and Walter Prokopchak, prin-

Reindeer

And often sit upon the ground

They are very seldom found

Susan Snyder

Debbie Henry

Dallas Intermediate

Grade 5

Lehman-Jackson Elem.

Reindeer roam around

Just standing around.

Christmas Day

Everyone's waiting for it soon will be here

Santa brings toys, but soon he must leave

Then comes a feast with turkey—crisp brown

And pies made of mince bought downtown

And other good things which are ready to bake.

Margaret Perry

Dallas Intermediate

Sandra McCarroll

everybody's talking

about the

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Grade 4-B

Lehman Elem

TGO Mighty-Mini

Grade 5

Cranberry sauce, some potatoes, and cake

Because in the morning you'll wake up and see

WhenChristmas day is very near

Christmas packages under a tree

And everyone is filled with glee.

Then on wonderful Christmas Eve

Wonderful toys like a car or dolly

Christmas

Is it the season to be jolly?

Time for tinsel and holly,

Christmas is a merry time,

To listen to old Santa call.

Christmas is here again.

When the snow falls.

The snow is on the ground.

It doesn't make a single sound.

Christmas is a beautiful time,

Are as beautiful as can be.

But on this Christmas Day

People will be so happy and gay.

People open presents,

When people hear the bells and chimes,

For dinner maybe turkey or pheasants.

The colorful lights along the street

To hear the church bells peal and chime

'May this be the merriest Christmas of all!"

Christmas is Here Again

Tony Marchakitus

Lake-Lehman Elem.

Grade 5-C

Oh, so that's why you're

As happy as a lolly!

Why, yes, by golly

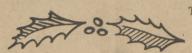
A star shone bright. All through the night. Much higher than a kite. With beautiful light.

Linda London Grade 6-B

Lehman Elem.

A Christmas Present

I got a present for Christmas It wasn't what I wanted But I liked it anyway! It wasn't a pair of skates Or skies or even a doll It was nice and fuzzy With a pretty ribbon It lies by the fire, all cuddly and sweet Why, it is a kitten



Tommy Newell Grade 5 Dallas Inter.

Elves' Work

Little elves in red and white Have a smile so gay and bright They make toys for girls and boys For they believe in thoughtful joys!

> Marcia Davis Grade 5 Dallas Inter.

First Celebration

The first record of the celebration of Christ's birth is traced back to the fifth century and was believed to be held at Gual, Spain. The Advent Season is a time of preparation for Christmas.

Even as preparations for the festival took place in Spain in the fith century, we too begin to decorate and prepare. The stores are preparing. Train loads of toys arrive so that Santa will be able to see that each child discovers a wonderland under his Christmas tree.

As adults, do we really celebrate Christmas? The religious value of Christmas to many of us today is minimized, the day among many, instead of being one of love among adults, is degraded into one of exchanging gifts, given in a sense of obligation. In too many homes, the children are not taught to tie the merrymaking in with the gift of God to the universe in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, without whom we would have nothing.

Once I was asked, "If you did not have the Christmas tree and all the decorations, would you still be able to celebrate Christ's birth?" My answer was, "Yes, for in my prayers when I say, 'Thank you God for sending us your Son and the gitt of life.' I am celebrating Christmas 365 days a year and I do not need a Christmas tree to be reminded of this gift."

May all Christians this Advent Season, and each day thereafter say. "Thank you God for giving us the most precious gift ever given in love and affection to mankind, your Son, Jesus." May you all have a very Happy and Holy .Christmas

> Rev. Henry E. Westfield Alderson United Methodist Church

What Christmas Is

I Christmas is a time of cheer It is the happiest time of the year Christmas is a time for happiness and joy And receiving presents, or a toy.

II Christmas is a time of good will For every one from plain to hill. Christmas day will soon be here



Christmas Jov

Christmas is a time for joy For every little girl and boy Presents all around the tree. One for you and one for me We put a wreath upon the door And bought candy canes from the store Maybe there'll be a gift in here That I can take to school this year Santa says, "Merry Christmas to you,"

And I say. "Merry Christmas Too!

Lynn Lewis Grade 5 Dallas Inter.

Christmas

Each succeeding year we hear it that this above all others, is a great year for Christmas. As we move from one period to another, there is a feeling that at no time have there been so many fears and anxieties or so many towering issues as those which are bing encountered on this particular Christmas. That has been voiced in the past. It will be heard again as we once more pause to commemorate the birth of our Savior.

To be sure, we have not always had the threat of the bomb or the peril of world communism. But we must never forget that amid the songs of the Herald Angels proclaiming His birth there were other menacing problems hovering over the Judean Hills. Christ came to a world in

It has been said over and over again that the one great hope for our perplexed times is to be found in the message and life of Him whose birth we are observing. But the matter goes much deeper than observance. What is needed is a change of heart—a commitment to the eternal truths of Almighty God. By exercising love, charity and goodwill, we are following the example of Him whose birth will again be heralded throughout the world.

We discover the glory of Christmas when we welcome Christ into our lives as the "counsellor, the everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." In companionship with Christ we experience beauty and truth and know the exaltation felt by the Magi and Shepherds of old so that we return to our tasks of life glorifying and praising God.

As we feel the exaltation of such an experience this Christmas Season we capture anew the courage of Christ to stand athwart the tyrannies of our day and to invest our lives in His Kingdom. Thus do we pray: ' Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray, O Come to us abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

Robert DeWitt Yost, Pastor Shavertown United Methodist Church

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