

The Skiing Day

Once there was a boy and his name was Tom. He was on his Christmas vacation and it was the day before Christmas. When he went to bed he dreamed about skiing. He dreamed about skiing so much that he fell off the bed. The next day when he went skiing it did not turn out to be the way he thought. He kept on falling. One time he went down on the chair and when he jumped off, he fell. It looked so funny because a person was getting ready to jump on top of him. Then he went home. He looked like a queer because he had a funny look on his face. When he went to bed again he 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 go again."

Susan Welb Grade 4 Lehman

Spirit of Christmas

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 routine. All this is as it should be provided that what is more important is not neglected.

There should 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 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 return to the peace of Christmas in each individual heart that all the evil of a modern day society may be replaced by love and one's fellow man. Since charity towards one's neighbors can only be God-inspired and only the heart that truly welcomes the Infant Christ this Christmas of 1971 can find real peace and contentment.

On this Christmas we ask the Infant Christ to bring true peace and charity to the hearts of all men.

GATE OF HEAVEN CHURCH The Rev. Thomas M. Jordan Pastor

Christmas Eve

For the first audience on this earth 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 also the first, after Mary and Joseph, to fall on their knees and adore Jesus Christ in the manger.

In what more striking way 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 Pastor 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



Nick Chorey Grade 6 Dallas Inter.

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 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.

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 Lord Has Come."

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 majesty and beauty of His creation. He speaks to us in the record of man's experience through history, and He speaks to us in our personal experiences. When we take a long and sensitive look at our own lives, we can see ways in which God has spoken, often in times of deepest difficulty and suffering.

But above all, God has spoken to us in Jesus Christ. This is the meaning of Christmas. This is why the writer of the Fourth Gospel begins his message to the world by saying, "And the Word became Flesh." God 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 this Christmas be the living of lives through which God can speak to others through us.

The Rev. John S. Prater Prince of Peace Church

Summer's Gone

No green grass, Just a white blanket of snow, No more birds I just don't know!

Bare trees, gray leaves, 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.

Neal Yerabeck Grade 5 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 Dui of all this Hobo and wished for Xmas, but th it was impossible.

One day Hobo Joe an were walking along the r just dreaming. They de take a rest on a bench ar a sudden he hears a "J "What was that?" "Psssss" "Where are you?" "Over here by the tree" "What tree? There's millions of them" "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?" "Sure"

Then Hobo Joe and Duke and of course the elf lived happily ever after.

Rosie Meyer Grade 6-B Lehman Elem.

The Groovy Elf

How I dig this workshop. Man it is groovy. Out a sight! Now to 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 sounds. Blum blum blum blum. Groovy! Now to see how it rides. This is out of sight to. Boy these power brakes. And this power steering. This car is groovy!

Now to have another brain-storm. 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 next! Man it's Groovy in here!

Billy Weaver 4-B 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 that star. That is why we have Christmas. A King was born.

Judith A. Major Grade 4-C Lake-Lehman



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!

Jim Davis Grade 5 Lehman Elem.



Westmoreland Parent Teachers' Association have elected officers, 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, principal.

Christmas

Is it the season to be jolly? Why, yes, by golly. Time for tinsel and holly, Oh, so that's why you're As happy as a lolly!

Tony Marchakitus Grade 5-C Lake-Lehman Elem.

Reindeer

Reindeer roam around And often sit upon the ground They are very seldom found Just standing around.

Susan Snyder Lehman-Jackson Elem.

Christmas Day

When Christmas day is very near Everyone's waiting for it soon will be here Christmas packages under a tree And everyone is filled with glee.

Then on wonderful Christmas Eve Santa brings toys, but soon he must leave Because in the morning you'll wake up and see Wonderful toys like a car or dolly.

Then comes a feast with turkey—crisp brown And pies made of mince bought downtown Cranberry sauce, some potatoes, and cake And other good things which are ready to bake.

Debbie Henry Grade 5 Dallas Intermediate

The Merry Time of Christmas

Christmas is a merry time, To hear the church bells peal and chime To listen to old Santa call, "May this be the merriest Christmas of all!"

Margaret Perry Grade 5 Dallas Intermediate

Christmas is Here Again

Christmas is here again. The snow is on the ground. When the snow falls. It doesn't make a single sound.

Christmas is a beautiful time, When people hear the bells and chimes, The colorful lights along the street Are as beautiful as can be.

Sandra McCarroll Grade 4-B Lehman Elem

Christmas

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

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

Linda London Grade 6-B Lehman Elem.

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 May you be happy all the year.

Robert Myak Grade 5 Dallas Intermediate



Christmas Joy

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 being 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 trouble.

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 "counselor, 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

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 fifth 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 gift 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."

Rev. Henry E. Westfield Alderson United Methodist Church

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