

# *A Maryknoll Christmas*



Maryknoll, New York





11 December 2020

Dear Friends,

Though we find ourselves in different circumstances than we ever have before, Christmas is coming. Though this feels like both the slowest and fastest moving year in our lifetime, Christmas is coming. Though we, as a global people have suffered through pain and doubt, sickness and death, an uncertain future and (now) a glimmer of hope on the horizon, Christmas is coming.

Every year we gather at Mary's Knoll to ring in the Christmas season, and this year is no different – we just cannot be together at Mary's Knoll, but together we are.

This year has shown us the benefits and necessity of technology in our lives, and this evening we are happy to employ that technology for the purpose of joy and peace.

Though you may be sitting in your living room watching and singing along with this year's concert, we have decided to use the rather traditional format of *Lessons and Carols* with modifications. You will hear the proclamation of the four Gospels of Christmas Day, as well as Advent/Christmas mission letters from three early members of both the Maryknoll Society and Congregation. You will be able to see many, many pictures of our missionaries in action, both here at home and in the *Field Afar*. And thanks to the gracious welcome of its staff, we will bring part of our program from Holy Cross Church in the midst of Times Square, the Crossroads of the World.

Maryknoll Father James Keller, founder of *The Christophers*, set as its motto the Chinese proverb, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." The light of Christ is such a gift to us at Christmas, how can we not but share its light? And was there ever a better time to light a candle, to share its light, warmth, and peace than this year?

This year, let us be missionaries of light for all those who need prayers and healing, health and joy. Let our missionary zeal be contagious in these dark times and help others of all faiths live Christmas every day of the year.

Peace in Christ our Hope,

# A Maryknoll Christmas

## Call to Christmas

## Carol of the Bells

Hark! how the bells; sweet silver bells, all seem to say "throw cares away".  
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer, to young and old, meek and the bold.  
Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song, with joyful ring, all caroling.  
One seems to hear, words of good cheer, from ev'rywhere filling the air.  
O, how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale.  
Gaily they ring, while people sing, song of good cheer, Christmas is here!  
Merry, merry, merry Christmas! Merry, merry, merry Christmas!  
On, on they send, on without end, their joyful tone, to every home.

## Welcome

## Reading

Matthew 1.1-25

## Carol

The First Nowell



1. The first No - well the an - gel did say Was to  
cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In  
fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a  
cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well!  
Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

2. They looked up and saw a star, shining in the East beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

3. And by the light of that same star, three Wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a King was there intent, and to follow that star wherever it went:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

5. Then entered in those Wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offer'd there in His presence their gold an myrrh and frankincense:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

## Meditation

## I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus, the Saviour, did come for to die.

For poor onery people like you and like I: I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall, with Wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing: a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;  
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing, he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King!

## Letter

*Bishop James Edward Walsh, MM*

## Carol

## Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.

2. 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 my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## Meditation

## Unto Us

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, alight has shown!

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:  
Mighty God and Prince of Peace, Savior of the world!

He comes with abundant joy, with everlasting peace.  
Upon his shoulder dominion rests for ever more!  
Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:  
Mighty God and Prince of Peace, Savior of the world!

We await the blessed hope, the glory of our God,  
Who gives himself to deliver us from sin and death!  
Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:  
Mighty God and Prince of Peace, Savior of the world!

Announce his salvation day after day; bless God's holy name,  
For today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!  
Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:  
Mighty God and Prince of Peace, Savior of the world!

## Reading

Luke 2.1-14

## Carol

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

2. See how the shepherds, summoned to the cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee with awe and love;  
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

4. Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

## Meditation

## O Magnum Mysterium

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the newborn Lord lying in a manger.  
O blessed Virgin, whose body was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus. Alleluia.*

## Letter

*Mother Mary Joseph Rodgers, MM*

## Carol

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee  
lie! A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The  
si - lent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets  
shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light. The hopes and  
fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in the world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

## Meditation

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella! Bring a torch to the cradle run!  
It is Jesus, good folk of the village; Christ is born and Mary's calling.  
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother! Ah! ah! beautiful is the Child.

It is wrong, while the Child is sleeping, it is wrong to talk so loud;  
Silence, all, as you gather around, lest your noise should waken Jesus:  
Hush! hush! see how fast he slumbers! Hush! hush! see how fast he sleeps!

Through the doorway softly filing, to his manger bed we come,  
Torches glowing the Babe discloses, fair as snow, with cheeks like roses!  
Soft! soft! see how the Infant slumbers! Soft! soft! watch the Infant sleep!

Skies are glowing, the heavens are cloudless, bright the path to the manger bed!  
Hasten all who would see the Child Jesus, shining bright as yonder star!  
Ah! ah! beautiful is the mother! Ah! ah! beautiful is the Child!

## Organ Solo

Bring a Torch

## Reading

Luke 2.15-20

## Carol

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
new - born King! Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail! The heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no ore may die,  
 born ro raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
 Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

## Meditation

## The Shepherds' Farewell

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,  
 Babe , all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share,  
 Loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear,  
 In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!  
 May the shepherd's lowly calling ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!  
 Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!  
 God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!

## Letter

*Bishop Raymond A Lane, MM*

## Carol

## Good Christians, Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart and  
 soul and voice; O give heed to what we say:  
 Je - sus Christ is born to - day! Ox and ass be -  
 fore him bow, And he is in the man - ger now.  
 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
 Now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ is born for this!  
 He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more.  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
 Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## Meditation

## Coventry Carol

Lullay, lullay, thou little tiny child, bye, bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we sing, "Bye, bye, lully, lullay?"

Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee and ever mourn and say  
For thy parting nor say nor sing, "Bye, bye, lully, lullay!"

Lullay, lullay, thou little tiny child, bye, bye, lully, lullay.

## Reading

John 1.1-18

## Carol

## Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing  
o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply  
Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Gló - ri - a  
in ex - cél - sis De - o. Gló - ri - a  
ri - a in ex - cél - sis De - o.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Glória in excélsis Deo. Glória in excélsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glória in excélsis Deo. Glória in excélsis Deo.

## Meditation

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

Ding! Dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing!  
Ding! Dong! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing!  
Gloria! Hosanna in Excelsis!

Even so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
and “Io, io, io!” by priest and people sungen!  
Gloria! Hosanna in Excelsis!

Pray, you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!  
May you beautifully rime, your evetime song, ye singers!  
Gloria! Hosanna in Excelsis!

## Farewell

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### Acknowledgments

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