



Light and Life in Jesus Christ

In the city I used to live in (Columbus, Ohio, USA) sunset is around 5pm in mid December. It certainly makes it more doable to take young children to see the Christmas lights. In the north of the northern hemisphere, in the darkest time of the year, you get a big burst of light at Christmas celebrations, often with many candles. Jesus' birth and life bring much light into all that is dark. Wherever we live in the world, we know things that are darker, hard, sad, traumatic. Jesus said – I am the light of the world. Personalising this, Jesus brings light to your life. Jesus grew up to do what he had come to do. His love, care, healing for the lowest of status people was often opposed by the keepers of the law. And this really got him killed. He took all that is dark about the world, about people, into himself on the cross. Jesus was raised to life on Easter, to share his new risen life. Like in the carol Hark the Herald Angels; 'life and light to all he brings.' For you! For you all!

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O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet, in your dark streets shining
the everlasting light,
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you 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 our King
and peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
their great glad tidings tell;
o come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.

English traditional melody. Public Domain



AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

Anonymous

Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain



HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

*Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in human flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hark the herald...

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark the herald...



*Charles Wesley 1707-88
Public Domain*

THE FIRST NOWELL

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

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the king of Israel*

When they looked up they 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, ...

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Nowell, nowell, ...

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
over Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell, nowell, ...

Then entered in those wise men three
and reverently, upon their knee,
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Nowell, nowell, ...

Now let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth from naught,
and with his blood salvation brought.

Nowell, nowell, ...



*English Traditional Melody.
Anon., English c.17th cent.
Words: Public Domain;
Music: Public Domain*

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts
Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you a merry Christmas
we wish you a merry Christmas
we wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin,
we wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.

Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain



Christmas Services

**Immanuel Woden
Valley Lutheran
Church**

Christmas Eve 7pm
Christmas Day 9am

*Driveway entrance at
37 Burnie Street, Lyons*

**St Alban's
Anglican Church**

Christmas Eve 9:30pm
Christmas Day 9:30am

*34 Chappell Street,
Lyons*

**Nepalese Christian
Community**

Christmas Day 11am

*Driveway entrance at
37 Burnie Street, Lyons*



*Christmas greetings from
Immanuel Woden Valley Lutheran Church*

