

THE
Story OF
Christmas
WORSHIP THE KING
CREATED BY
PHIL BARFOOT

NARRATION

by Deborah Craig-Claar

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Narration

by DEBORAH CRAIG-CLAAR

Song: “GLORIA!”

ALL: Joy to the world!
The Lord is come!
Glory to God in the highest!

NARRATOR 1: He is the Lord of lords and King of kings!

NARRATOR 2: He is the Lord of hosts and King of glory!

NARRATOR 1: Let every heart prepare Him room!

NARRATOR 2: Let heaven and nature sing!

ALL: Joy to the world!
The Savior reigns!
Glory to God in the highest!

NARRATOR 1: And He shall be called Wonderful ...

NARRATOR 2: Counselor ...

NARRATOR 1: The Mighty God ...

NARRATOR 2: The Everlasting Father ...

NARRATOR 1: The Prince of peace ...

NARRATOR 2: And He shall reign forever!

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NARRATOR 1: Joy to the world!

NARRATOR 2: Joy to the world!

ALL: Glory to God in the highest!

(Music begins for “Jesus Is.”)

Song: “JESUS IS”

NARRATOR 1: It begins with “And it came to pass ...”

NARRATOR 2: “As the prophets foretold ...”

NARRATOR 1: “And in those days ...”

NARRATOR 2: It begins with “For unto you is born this day ...”

NARRATOR 1: And it ends with “a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”

NARRATOR 2: It’s the story of Christmas – the only story that forever changed the world, today and for all time.

NARRATOR 1: Oh, the story of Christmas. The timeless words are woven throughout all of our seasonal celebrations. We hear the story in children’s recitations and Grandpa’s Christmas Eve memories. We listen to the story as it’s shared through beloved carols on every street corner.

NARRATOR 2: We read the story in cards and letters from afar. We experience the story through newsletters and tweets.

NARRATOR 1: But the story is so much more than simple words. The Christmas story is felt in the warmth of a fire and the aroma of a family kitchen. The Christmas story is shared with every tender smile, with every laugh and fond embrace.

(Music begins for “The Heart of Christmas.” The following narration is spoken over the instrumental introduction.)

NARRATOR 2: But most of all, we live the Christmas story in the changed lives that come from knowing the Savior whose birth we celebrate.

NARRATOR 1: And this is the heart of the story. This is the heart ... of Christmas.

Song: "THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS"

NARRATOR 1: The story of Christmas can really be summed up in a single word: Jesus.

NARRATOR 2: Jesus: the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

(Music begins for "This Is Jesus." The following narration is spoken over the instrumental introduction.)

NARRATOR 1: Before Jesus physically came to our world, a heavenly messenger appeared to Joseph, His earthly father, with words of eternal significance: "[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins" (*Matthew 1:21*).

NARRATOR 2: The story of Christmas ... is the story of Jesus.

Song: "THIS IS JESUS"

NARRATOR 1: *(spoken in a warm, conversational rhythm)*

"Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels, in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
'Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.'"
*(Words taken from "Tell Me the Story of Jesus,"
by Fanny J. Crosby)*

NARRATOR 2: Come. Join with us now as we tell ... the story ... of *Jesus*!

(Music begins for “Jesu Medley.” If desired, NARRATORS 1 and 2 may invite the congregation to sing along with the carols in this song.)

Song: “JESU MEDLEY” *includes “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”/“Unto Us”/“What Child Is This?”/“Alleluia to the King”*

NARRATOR 1: It was almost 4,000 years ago that the Christmas story was first shared with a waiting world. From the pens of ancient prophets, a message from God was delivered to His children:

NARRATOR 2: “Your God will come. [He] will wipe away the tears from all [your] faces. He will come to save you” *(Isaiah 25:8; 35:4).*

NARRATOR 1: “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:” The virgin shall be with child. And she will give birth to a son. And you will call Him Emmanuel. *(Isaiah 7:14)*

(Music begins for “He Has Come for Us (God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen).” The following narration is spoken over the instrumental introduction.)

NARRATOR 2: “Arise! Shine! For your light has come!” *(Isaiah 60:1).*

Song: “HE HAS COME FOR US (GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN)”

NARRATOR 1: He has come for us. This was more than a story; it was a covenant that stretched across the ages between God and His people.

NARRATOR 2: It was an eternal promise, first sung by the prophets, repeated by countless generations of God’s faithful, then finally whispered in the heart of a young girl.

NARRATOR 2: An angel was sent to the small village called Nazareth with words of comfort and expectation.

(Music begins for “Noel.” The following narration is spoken over the instrumental introduction.)

NARRATOR 1: “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.”
You will be with child and give birth to a son and give Him the name Jesus.
(Luke 1:30-31)

NARRATOR 2: “‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled. My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is His name’” *(Luke 1:38,46-49)*.

NARRATOR 1: This is truly the story of God’s most amazing love. Oh praise the Lord for what He has done ... and what He is about to do. Noel. Noel. All is well.

(Vocal begins; female solo in “Noel.”)

Song: “NOEL”

NARRATOR 1: And so the story of Christmas had truly begun. The message that had been penned by prophets was now inscribed on the hearts of a young peasant girl and her anxious intended.

NARRATOR 2: The promise that would become the song of the nations was to be played out in the smallest of villages. “But you, Bethlehem ... though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel” *(Micah 5:2)*.

NARRATOR 1: Bethlehem, a forgotten town tucked among the Judean hills, was now poised to become the center of God’s unfolding drama. Joseph and Mary’s journey to Bethlehem had been ordered by an earthly census, but it was part of a heavenly plan.

(Music begins for “Almost There.” The following narration is spoken over the instrumental introduction.)

NARRATOR 2: And so the couple set out on the arduous journey that lay before them. They only had the light of the desert stars to guide them ... and their faith.

NARRATOR 1: But that would be enough. It led them to a sleeping village, a simple stable, a manger of warm straw ... and the newborn Son of God.

Song: “ALMOST THERE” with “Mary, Did You Know?”

NARRATOR 1: Emmanuel is born!

NARRATOR 2: The voice that commanded creation had become a baby’s cry. The God whose arms had embraced a firmament was now asleep in a virgin’s arms.

NARRATOR 1: Messiah has come!

NARRATOR 2: And in that tiny hand, which grasped His mother’s fingers so tightly, lay the hope for all the world.

NARRATOR 1: God ... is ... WITH us!

NARRATOR 2: Oh, but the story is far from over! On a Bethlehem hill, startled shepherds were surprised by an explosion of angelic joy.

NARRATOR 1: “Glory to God!” they sang. “Glory to God in the highest!” Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

(Music begins for “Joy to the World!”)

Song: “JOY TO THE WORLD!”

NARRATOR 1: The shepherds remembered what the angels had told them.

NARRATOR 2: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;” He is Christ the Lord! *(Luke 2:11)*

NARRATOR 1: Then they ran to the very place which the angels had told them about.

NARRATOR 2: “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” *(Luke 2:12)*.

NARRATOR 1: And when they found the infant King, they bowed before His manger throne.

NARRATOR 2: Let us join them there. Let us bring our gifts of love and praise.

NARRATOR 1: Let us worship the Son of God ... and become part of the story.

(Music begins for "Come, See the King.")

Song: "COME, SEE THE KING"

NARRATOR 1: Many thousands of years have passed, and many millions of voices have shared the famous words ... but the story remains unchanged.

NARRATOR 2: It is as vibrant and alive as it was that night long ago in Bethlehem. It is still changing lives, just as it did when the shepherds first gathered around a simple manger.

NARRATOR 1: And now the Christmas story is your story.

NARRATOR 2: "This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long."
*(Words taken from "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine,"
by Fanny J. Crosby)*

NARRATOR 1: There is a world waiting to hear the story.

NARRATOR 2: "We've a story to tell to the nations
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light."
*(Words taken from "We've a Story to Tell,"
by H. Ernest Nichol)*

NARRATOR 1: For Jesus said, "As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you"
(John 20:21). How shall they believe if they have not heard?

NARRATOR 2: And how shall they hear if the story isn't told?

(Music begins to "Give This Christmas Away." The following narration is spoken over the instrumental introduction.)

NARRATOR 1: So this year, give Christmas away. Go and tell ...

NARRATOR 2: ... go and tell ...

NARRATOR 1

and

NARRATOR 2: ... go and tell that Jesus Christ is born!

Song: "GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS AWAY"

NARRATOR 1: Pray with me. Heavenly Father, thank You for the story of Christmas, because it is ultimately the story of our salvation. Thank You for sending Your prophets with the announcement of Your Son's birth ... and His death and resurrection. Thank You for the simple wood of His manger ... and His cross. Thank You for His crown of glory ... and His crown of thorns. Thank You for the angels' song that declared "Gloria! He is born!" ... but more, "Alleluia! He is risen!"

NARRATOR 2: And thank You, Heavenly Father, that the Christmas story is now our story. In the name of our Savior whose birth we celebrate, Amen.

NARRATOR 1: And amen. Now, may we run with the shepherds to proclaim the story to the nations:

ALL: Joy to the world!
The Lord is come!
Glory to God in the highest!

NARRATOR 2: May we join the heavenly chorus and sing with the angels:

ALL: Joy to the world!
The Savior reigns!
Glory to God in the highest!

NARRATOR 1: Joy to the world!

NARRATOR 2: Joy to the world!

ALL: Glory to God in the highest!

(Music begins to "Joy to the World! Reprise.")

Song: “JOY TO THE WORLD! REPRISE”

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Song: “BEHOLD OUR GOD”

Optional Song: “WHO CAN SATISFY MY SOUL LIKE YOU?”