

# We Witness of Christ

A Christmas Celebration

“The Nativity”

Children’s Chorus

Available in December 2014 *The Friend*

(Alternate choice: “Stars were gleaming”)

**Male Narrator:** One little shepherd, two little lambs, Three noble wise men with gold-laden hands. A guardian angel watches above, while Mary and Joseph look on with love.

We display these simple nativity figures in our homes this time of year in honor of that very first Christmas. They may be cast in clay or glass, carved of olive wood, or stone; they may sparkle with jewels or be made of corn husks. However grand or humble, these figurines remind us of that lowly cast of characters that once gathered in a crude stable on the outskirts of a nondescript village, home to a people seemingly forgotten and forsaken.

**Female Narrator:** In olden times when a prince was born, dignitaries were summoned to honor and pay homage to their future Lord. The entire kingdom would celebrate amid great pomp and rejoicing. Thus on this long ago occasion, when “the Lord. . . who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, [came] down from heaven,” the court that was summoned to pay homage to him was very carefully chosen. For these courtiers came not merely to adore, but also to witness the birth of Jesus Christ, to confirm the signs of His coming, and to acknowledge the fulfillment of His covenant to redeem the world.

**Male Narrator:** Mary and Joseph were some of the first witnesses of Jesus Christ on this earth. Joseph had followed the counsel of the Lord delivered by the Angel Gabriel, saying: “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” Joseph would love little Jesus and raise Him as his own son; he would teach him to walk uprightly, and to be a man. And as Jesus grew, Joseph would train the boy in Joseph’s own craft of shaping wood and stone, even as a Heavenly Father had taught Jesus to shape and form this earth, and even worlds without end.

**Female Narrator:** Mary, the chosen vessel, was “most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.” Mary would bear the holy Child. She would teach him his first lessons: how to say his first words, how to pray, how to love. What a great and terrible burden to bear.

“Silent Night”

SATB with Soprano Solo, violin

Available at [www.tuiofuandthomasmusic.com](http://www.tuiofuandthomasmusic.com)

(Alternate choice: “Once in Royal David’s City”)

**Male Narrator:** Silently, night falls over Bethlehem. The little town is full of travelers come to be taxed in the place of their fathers; but now each traveler makes his bed, now sons and daughters of the town seek the warmth of home. Yet while men sleep, the heavens are solemn with anticipation. As the darkness deepens, one by one the stars appear, but with one new light in their midst: the Star of Bethlehem.

**Female Narrator:** This new star is given as a solemn sign and a symbol for all the world to see. For on this night, Mary will bring forth the Christ Child, the light of the world.

**“A New Star over Bethlehem”**  
**SSATB or Soprano/Tenor Solo**  
*Available at [www.tuiofuandthomasmusic.com](http://www.tuiofuandthomasmusic.com)*  
**(Alternate choice: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”)**

**Female Narrator:** There on Bethlehem’s plains shepherds keep an all-night vigil over their herds, for this is the season when new lambs are born. These shepherds pasture their sheep in the very fields where once King David kept his flocks; these worthy men are keepers of the unblemished lambs that will be sacrificed in the temple at nearby Jerusalem. Is it any wonder that heralding angels would summon them to witness the birth of the Lamb of God?

**Male Narrator:** Now the silence and the stillness is rent with splendor! Over the plains outside of the town of Bethlehem, a host, a multitude, an army of angels fills the sky, declaring peace on earth, and heralding the coming of their King. After the angelic visitations, the shepherds hasten to Bethlehem to behold the baby Jesus and witness the sign given unto them: “Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

**“Far, Far Away on Judea’s Plains”**  
**Congregational Hymn**  
*LDS Hymnal #212*  
**(Alternate choices: “The First Noel” or “It came upon a Midnight Clear”)**

**Male Narrator:** Some time after that holy night, a company of wise men make their way into Bethlehem and find the house where Mary and Joseph are staying with the little child Jesus. Who are these weary men? They have come from a great distance, summoned by the new star that shone when Christ was born.

**Female Narrator:** In awe, the travelers bow before the Holy Child, presenting gifts that befit His royal rank: gold for the crown that He would one day wear, and frankincense and myrrh to anoint the Future King. How do they know that Christ has come? Though the Star of Bethlehem had shone for all men, few had lifted their eyes to heaven to see. But these weary travelers had diligently watched for the promised sign in the heavens and now follow its light. Truly they are wise men.

**“They Are Wise Men”**  
**SATB Chorus**  
*Available at [www.tuiofuandthomasmusic.com](http://www.tuiofuandthomasmusic.com)*  
**(Alternate choice: “With Wondering Awe”)**

**Male Narrator:** When Christ was born, all heaven and earth rejoiced. The angels fled the hallowed courts on high to herald the birth of their Lord. The shepherds left their folded flocks and hastened to see the newly born Lamb of God. Wise men left their homes afar to worship at his feet and lay their precious gifts before him. Should not we also leave our works of clay and tin to seek and honor Him?

**Female Narrator:** In this Christmas season, may we each bear the witness that was born above: “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth.” Let us honor Him in our words and in our lives. For Christ has come! He is the promised light of the world; he came to break the chains of darkness and unbelief that bind men’s souls. He has broken the bands of death and provided the way to redeem his people.

**“Come Away, Exultant Angels!”**

**SATB Chorus**

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**(Alternate choice: “Joy to the World”)**