

# *“The Wondrous Story of Christmas”*

## *A Christmas Carol-Sing with Narration*

### *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” - Hymn 207*

**Narrator:** The prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley, taught us:

“What a glorious season is this time of Christmas. Hearts are softened. Voices are raised in worship. Kindness and mercy are re-enthroned as elements in our lives. There is an accelerated reaching out to those in distress. There is an aura of peace that comes into our homes. There is a measure of love that is not felt to the same extent at any other time of the year.

“My heart is subdued when I think of the great love of my Heavenly Father. How grateful I am to know that God loves us. The incomprehensible depth of that love found expression in the gift of His Only Begotten Son to come into the world to bring hope into our hearts, to bring kindness and courtesy into our relationships, and above all to save us from our sins and guide us on the way that leads to eternal life.

“Marvelous is the chronicle that began with the singing of angels at Bethlehem and ended on Golgotha’s cruel cross. There is no other life to compare with His life. He was the one perfect man to walk the earth, the paragon of excellence, the singular example of perfection.” (Ensign, Dec. 2000)

### *“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” – Hymn 141*

**Narrator:** The mission of the Savior was promised from before the creation of the world. We read from Abraham’s record: (Abr. 3:24-25) “And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell.

“And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;

(1:6) ...and mine Only Begotten is and shall be the Savior, for he is full of grace and truth.”

**Narrator:** The great Israelite prophet Isaiah tells us: (Is. 7:14) “Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.”

(Is. 9:6) “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

### *“Joy to the World” – Hymn 201* (or “Gesù Bambino” - vocal solo with violin)

**Narrator:** Across the great waters and centuries before, the Book of Mormon prophets knew that the Savior would be born. They knew him by name.

Nephi testifies: (2 Nephi 25:19) “For according to the words of the prophets, the Messiah cometh in six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem; and according to the prophets, and also the word of the angel of God, his name shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

Nephi was also shown in vision the circumstances of Christ’s birth in the land of Jerusalem: (1 Nephi 11: 14-15, 18-21)

“And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open, and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me: Nephi, what beholdest thou?

“And I said unto him: A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins...

“And he said unto me: Behold the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh...

“And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms. And the angel, said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father.”

### ***“Once in Royal David’s City” – Hymn 205***

**Narrator:** The scriptures testify that signs would tell of the Savior’s birth, for when those signs should appear, the people would know of His coming.

In Luke we read: (Luke 2: 8, 10-12) “And there were in that same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night... And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings, of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

### ***“Away in a Manger” – Hymn 206***

**Narrator:** As the shepherds gazed upward in awe, trying to take in all that the heavenly messenger spake unto them, they beheld yet another wonder! Luke’s narrative continues:

(Luke 2:13-14) “And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

### ***“Far, Far Away on Judea’s Plains” – Hymn 212***

**Narrator:** “And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us.

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger.

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, as it was told to them.”

***“Angels We Have Heard on High” – Hymn 203***

**Narrator:** Both the Bible and the Book of Mormon records tell of the sign of the new star. In the Book of Mormon, Samuel the Lamanite stood upon the city wall and proclaimed:

“And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming;... there shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night;... for ye shall know of the rising of the sun and also of its setting;... nevertheless the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before he is born. And behold, there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you.” (Helaman 14: 3-5)

**Narrator:** In the Bible, in the book of Matthew we read:

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem..., behold, there came wisemen from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him... And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” (Matt. 2:1-2, 9-10)

***“With Wondering Awe” – Hymn 210***

**Narrator:** Jesus Christ, the holy babe of Bethlehem, was born as any other babe, pure, whole, and innocent. But only He, of all of the Father’s spirit children, was able to maintain that total purity throughout His earthly life. Only He, the Sinless One, could make the Atonement possible. Only He, Son of the Living God, had the power to offer himself as a sacrifice, to satisfy the demands of justice, and to provide the resurrection and opportunity of eternal life for man.

In John 11: 25-26, the Lord said: “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

**Narrator:** Pres. Hinckley wrote: “When all is said and done, when all of history is examined, when the deepest depths of the human mind have been explored, nothing is so wonderful, so majestic, so tremendous as this act of grace, when the Son of the Almighty, the Prince of His Father’s royal household, He who had once spoken as Jehovah, He who had once condescended to come to earth as a babe born in Bethlehem, gave his life in ignominy and pain, so that all of the sons and daughters of God, of all generations of time, every one of whom must die, might walk again and live eternally. He did for us what none of us could do for ourselves...”

“Our joy at this season is because He came into the world. The peace that comes from Him, His infinite love which each of us may feel, and an

overwhelming sense of gratitude for that which he freely gave us at so great a cost to Himself—these are of the true essence of Christmas.”

***“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” – Hymn 202***

**Narrator:** Truly, we, as Saints in the Latter Days, rejoice in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master. As Nephi of old wrote, “We talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ...(that we) may look forward to that life which is in Christ.” (2 Nephi 25: 26-27)

May we know and declare the Divine Sonship of Jesus Christ, as did the prophets and shepherds and wisemen of long ago. May we echo the testimony of our living prophet, that we know He lives! May we unite with the angels and sing everlasting praises to God. “Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will to men.”

***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – Hymn 209***