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Since 1892

*Joy Has Dawned*

*A Christmas Musical  
Composed & Arranged by*

**Lloyd Larson**

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# Joy Has Dawned

A Christmas Musical  
Composed & Arranged by

Lloyd Larson

Orchestrated by  
Ed Hogan

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Since 1892

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## *Joy Has Dawned*

Key rehearsal measures have CD track numbers.

(CD Track **numbers** are in **Bold**, m. = measure numbers.)

How Great Our Joy! **1-m.** 1 **2-m.** 27 **3-m.** 39 **4-m.** 69 **5-m.** 83  
Joy in the Morning **6-m.** 1 **7-m.** 22 **8-m.** 58 **9-m.** 86  
Mary Had a Baby **10-m.** 1 **11-m.** 12 **12-m.** 22 **13-m.** 32 **14-m.** 48  
Gloria in Excelsis Deo! **15-m.** 1 **16-m.** 15 **17-m.** 62  
Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven **18-m.** 1 **19-m.** 17 **20-m.** 24 **21-m.** 44  
Brightest and Best of the Stars **22-m.** 1 **23-m.** 33 **24-m.** 44 **25-m.** 73  
Joy Has Dawned **26-m.** 1 **27-m.** 27 **28-m.** 48 **29-m.** 65 **30-m.** 89  
Jesus Christ Is Born! **31-m.** 1 **32-m.** 23 **33-m.** 62 **34-m.** 92 **35-m.** 121

## Foreword

Perhaps the prevailing theme of Christmas is the theme of joy. It punctuates our music, our family gatherings, our worship experiences, and many of our long-standing yuletide traditions. We expect our experiences at Christmas and the people with whom we share those moments to be filled with joy!

But what happens when they're not? How do we handle the Christmas that comes amidst one of life's crushing blows? An unexpected job transition? A traumatic health crisis? A difficult family dynamic? A major financial strain? In those moments we have to dig deep and find a joy that is rooted in something more solid than life's fleeting challenges. The Psalmist said it this way: *Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5)* It is in those moments that we are reminded that true joy—deep joy—is not founded in the moments of life, but on the Creator of life.

As I was working out the “architecture” for this musical, I was struck by the profound “joy” themes that permeate the lyrics in these Christmas carols, both old and new:

*Born to reign in us forever, born to set his people free;  
dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star.*

*Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation;  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.*

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King!*

The message of Christmas is truly a message of joy! It is an eternal message for all. It is a message to be embraced in the good days and the bad days. Joy has dawned upon the world. And that is something to celebrate!

— Lloyd Larson

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# 1. How Great Our Joy!

Arranged with New Music by  
LLOYD LARSON

HOPE Publishing Company  
Since 1892

1 Regally ♩ = ca. 96

Piano

4

7

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10 *f* S.A. Unison

Joy to the world! Joy to the world! Joy to the world!

*f* T.B. Unison

Joy to the world! Joy to the world! Joy to the world!

13 rit.

world! The Lord has come, the Lord has come!

a tempo come!

rit. a tempo

“While by the Sheep We Watched”  
Tune: JUNGST, Traditional German Melody;  
Words: Traditional German Carol

16 *mf*

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid-ings brought an

*mf*

*mf*

19

an - gel bright. How great our joy!

This system contains measures 19, 20, and 21. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid on the page.

22

Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in —

This system contains measures 22, 23, and 24. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with a rhythmic pattern. A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid on the page.

25

heav'n on high!

This system contains measures 25, 26, and 27. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. A circled number '2' is placed above the piano part in measure 26. A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid on the page.

28 *mf*

*mf mel.* There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth-le-

There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth-le-hem a

31 *mel.*

hem to - day. How great our joy!

Child to - day.

34

Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in—

heav'n on high!

How great our joy!

*mp*

How great our joy, joy, joy, joy!

*mf*

44 How great our joy! How great our joy!

joy, our joy, How great our joy! How great our joy! Great our

joy, our joy, great our joy, our joy! Our

46 How great our joy, our joy!

joy! joy, our joy, How great our joy, our joy! joy! joy!

joy, great our joy, great our joy, our joy!

48 S.T.  
The gift of God we'll

A.B.  
The gift, the gift of God

50

cher - ish well, that ev - 'ry  
 we'll cher - ish well, that ev - 'ry,

53

joy our hearts shall fill. How  
 ev - 'ry joy our hearts, our hearts shall fill.

S.A.  
 T.B.

56

great our joy!

58

Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

61

heav'n on high!

64

Praise we the Lord in heav'n,

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (treble and bass clefs) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The first system starts at measure 58 with the lyrics 'Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in'. The second system starts at measure 61 with the lyrics 'heav'n on high!'. The third system starts at measure 64 with the lyrics 'Praise we the Lord in heav'n,'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line. There are three 'cresc.' markings in the piano part, indicating a crescendo. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company Since 1892' is overlaid across the page, and a diagonal watermark 'PREVIEW COPY NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is also present.

10

67 rit. Slightly broader ♩ = ca. 88 4

*f* on high!

on high, on high!

rit. Slightly broader ♩ = ca. 88

70 "Joy to the World! the Lord is Come"  
Tune: ANTIOCH by Lowell Mason, based on George F. Handel;  
Words: Isaac Watts

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re-ceive her

73

King; let ev - 'ry heart pre -



75 *mf*

pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

*mf*

and heav'n and na - ture

77

and heav'n, and heav'n and

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and

sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and

79 *cresc. poco a poco*

na - ture sing. How great our

*cresc. poco a poco*

na - ture sing. *cresc. poco a poco*

The musical score is for a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 75-76) features a vocal line with lyrics 'pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 77-78) continues the vocal line with lyrics 'and heav'n, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and' and the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 79-80) concludes with lyrics 'na - ture sing. How great our' and 'na - ture sing. How great our'. The piano part in the final system includes a dynamic marking of *cresc. poco a poco*. A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid on the page.

rit.

a tempo

*f*

joy! How great our joy! Joy to the

earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let

all their songs em - ploy;

all, let all their songs em - ploy, their songs em -

91

ploy; while fields and floods, rocks,

93

hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -

re - peat the sound - ing

95

re - peat, re - peat the

peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat re - peat the

joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the

The image shows a musical score for three systems, each with vocal and piano parts. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system (measures 91-92) features a vocal line with lyrics 'ploy; while fields and floods, rocks,' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 93-94) has lyrics 'hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -' and 're - peat the sound - ing'. The third system (measures 95-96) has lyrics 're - peat, re - peat the', 'peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat re - peat the', and 'joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the'. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid on the page.

97

*f*

sound - ing joy! Joy to the world!

sound - ing joy! Joy to the world! Joy to the

100

*cresc. e rit.*

— Joy to the world! Joy to the world! The Lord has

world! Joy to the world! *cresc.*

*cresc. e rit.*

103

*ff* come!

*ff* come, the Lord has come!

*ff*

## 2. Joy in the Morning

with *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Adapted and Arranged by  
LLOYD LARSON

Words and Music by  
NATALIE SLEETH  
Incorporating ODE TO JOY  
by LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

**Narrator 1:** Joy to the world! The Lord has come! Joy has dawned, and today we celebrate God's great gift of love to all! But to Old Testament Israel, the hope of a brighter tomorrow – the promise of a joyful (*music begins*) future – seemed an elusive dream.

**Narrator 2:** For over 400 years, God's chosen people languished in bondage, longing for the day when the promised Messiah would come to deliver them. The prophet Isaiah had assured them that, though they were a people walking in darkness, a great light would eventually shine upon them.

**Narrator 1:** A Child would be born; a Son given. And the government would be upon His shoulders and He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

**Narrator 2:** Anguish and weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

**Pensively, freely** ♩ = ca. 48

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"  
Music: PICARDY, Traditional French Melody

**Piano**

6

5

10

*mp*

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16

15

*dim. e rit.*

*cresc.* *mf*

19

Joyously ♩ = ca. 112

*mp* *marcato*

S.A. Unison

23

*mp*

*mp*

Joy, there'll be joy, ——— there'll be joy, joy, joy, joy,

26

*mp*

joy. ——— There'll be joy, there'll be joy, ——— there'll be

T.B. Unison

Joy, there'll be joy, ——— there'll be

29 *S. mf* *mp*

joy in the morn - ing. There'll be

A. *mf* *mp*

joy, there'll be joy in the morn - ing. There'll be

T. *mf* *mp*

joy, there'll be joy, there'll be joy in the morn - ing. There'll be

B. *mf* *mp*

joy, there'll be joy, joy, joy. There'll be

31

joy on that day. There'll be

joy on that day. There'll be

8 joy in the morn - ing on that day. There'll be

joy in the morn - ing on that day. There'll be

*cresc.*

joy, there'll be joy on that day, with the

*cresc.*

joy, there'll be joy on that day, with the

*cresc.*

8 joy in the morn - ing on that day, \_\_\_\_\_ for the

*cresc.*

joy in the morn - ing on that day, \_\_\_\_\_ for the

*cresc.*

*mf*

light of dawn, the dark is gone, there'll be

*mf*

bright dawn, dark gone, there'll be

*mf*

8 day - light will dawn when the dark - ness is gone, there'll be

*mf*

day - light will dawn when the dark - ness is gone, there'll be

*mf*



37

joy, joy, joy. And the  
 joy, joy, joy. And the  
 joy in the morn - ing on that day. And the  
 joy in the morn - ing on that day. And the

39

glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry of the Lord will  
 glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry of the Lord will  
 glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry of the Lord  
 glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry of the Lord

41

shine, will shine. And the glo-ry, glo-ry,  
 shine, will shine. And the glo-ry, glo-ry,  
 will shine, shine up-on us and the glo-ry, glo-ry,  
 will shine, shine up-on us and the glo-ry, glo-ry,

44

glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine.  
 glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine.  
 glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine.  
 glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine.

47 S.A.  
*mf*

Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry,

T.B. *mf*

*mf legato*

50

Lord of love; hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee,

53

open - ing to the sun a - bove.

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*mp* There'll be joy, —

*mp* There'll be

*mp* There'll be joy, —

*mp* There'll be

*mp*

60

there'll be joy, — there'll be joy, joy,

joy, there'll be joy, joy, joy, joy,

— there'll be joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy,

joy, there'll be joy, there'll be joy, there'll be

62 *f* **March-like**

joy, joy, joy. There'll be joy in the

joy, joy, joy. There'll be joy in the

8 joy, joy, joy. There'll be joy in the morn - ing,

joy, joy, joy. There'll be joy in the morn - ing on that

**March-like**

64

morn - ing, there'll be joy on that day, with the

morn - ing, there'll be joy on that day, with the

8 joy in the morn - ing, joy in the morn - ing on that day, — for the

day, — there'll be joy in the morn - ing on that day, — for the

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Joy in the Morning". It is arranged for voice and piano. The score is divided into two systems, starting at measure 62 and 64. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked "March-like" and "f" (forte). The lyrics are: "joy, joy, joy. There'll be joy in the morn - ing, there'll be joy on that day, with the joy in the morn - ing, joy in the morn - ing on that day, — for the day, — there'll be joy in the morn - ing on that day, — for the". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. There are some rests in the piano parts during the vocal lines.

bright dawn, night gone, there'll be  
 bright dawn, night gone, there'll be  
 8 day - light will dawn when the dark - ness is gone, there'll be  
 day - light will dawn when the dark - ness is gone, there'll be

69 joy, joy, joy! Mor - tals, join the  
 joy, joy, joy! Mor - tals, join the  
 joy, joy, joy! Mor - tals, join the  
 joy in the morn - ing on that day! Mor - tals, join the  
 joy in the morn - ing on that day! Mor - tals, join the

*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf legato*

72 S.A.

T.B. might - y\_\_ chor - us which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

75

love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing all with -

78

in its span. Ev - er sing - ing, march we\_\_ on - ward,

81

*mf*

vic - tors in the midst of strife; joy - ful mu - sic

*mf*

84

leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

9

87

And the glo - ry, glo - ry,

*f*

*f*



89

S.  
glo - ry of the Lord will shine, will

A.  
glo - ry of the Lord will shine, will

T.  
glo - ry of the Lord will shine, will — shine,

B.  
glo - ry of the Lord will shine, will — shine,

91

shine. ——— And the glo - ry, glo - ry,

shine. ——— And the glo - ry, glo - ry,

shine up - on us and the glo - ry, glo - ry,

shine up - on us and the glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine. *mf*

glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine. There'll be

glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine. *mf*

glo - ry of the Lord will bring the truth di - vine. There'll be *mf*

*mf* There'll be love and for-give-ness ev - 'ry - where,

love and for-give-ness ev - 'ry - where, there'll be

*mf* There'll be love, there'll be love,

love, there'll be love and for-give-ness ev - 'ry -

98

there'll be love, there'll be love ev-'ry-where, and the  
 love and for-give-ness ev-'ry-where, and the  
 there'll be love, there'll be love ev-'ry-where, and the  
 where, there'll be love ev-ry-where, and the

100

way of the Lord will be re-stored. There'll be  
 way of the Lord will that day be re-stored. There'll be  
 way of the Lord will that day be re-stored. There'll be  
 way of the Lord will be re-stored. There'll be

102 *f* love, there'll be peace.

*f* love and for-give-ness, there'll be peace and con-tent-ment. There'll be

*f* love and for-give-ness, there'll be peace and con-tent-ment. There'll be

*f* love, there'll be peace. There'll be

*f* love, there'll be peace. There'll be

104 *ff* joy, joy, joy, joy, joy!

*ff* joy, joy, joy, joy, joy!

*ff* joy, joy, joy, joy, joy!

*ff* joy, joy, joy, joy, joy!

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system (measures 102-103) features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano, alto, tenor, and bass range. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a simple bass line. The second system (measures 104-105) features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano, alto, tenor, and bass range. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a simple bass line. The score is marked with dynamics such as *f* and *ff*.

### 3. Mary Had a Baby

Arranged by  
LLOYD LARSON

Traditional Spiritual  
Incorporating ADESTE FIDELES  
from John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

**Narrator 2:** Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and give birth to Emmanuel. In God's perfect timing, a young maiden named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David, was chosen by God to become the mother of the promised Messiah.

**Narrator 1:** And so it came to be that Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Mary and Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem, the town of David. And while they were there, the time came for the baby to be born.

**Narrator 2:** Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, for there had been no room for them in the inn. (*music begins*)

10 **Slowly, very freely** ♩ = ca. 58

Piano

*p*

3 Solo *p*

Ma - ry had a ba - by, — my Lord;

5

Ma - ry had a ba - by, — my Lord;

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a piano introduction marked 'Piano' and 'p' (piano). The tempo is 'Slowly, very freely' with a quarter note equal to approximately 58 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction. The second system begins with a 'Solo' section for the voice, marked 'p' (piano), with the lyrics 'Ma - ry had a ba - by, — my Lord;'. The piano accompaniment continues. The third system continues the solo with the lyrics 'Ma - ry had a ba - by, — my Lord;'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

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7

*mp*

Ma-ry had a ba - by, Ma-ry had a ba - by, Ma-ry, had a ba - by, -

*mp*

10

rit. *p* Steadily ♩ = ca. 66 (11)

— my Lord.

rit. *p* Steadily ♩ = ca. 66

13

Solo *mp*

What did she name him, — my Lord? —

S.A. *mp*

Oo my Lord? —

T.B. *mp*

*mp*

15

What did she name him, — my Lord? —

Oo — my Lord? —

17

*mf* What did she name him, what did she name him,

*mf* What did she name him, what did she name him,

*mf*

19

what did she name him, — my Lord?  
Oo — my Lord, my Lord?

*mp* end Solo

*mp*

22 12

SA  
TB mel. *mf*

She named him King Je - sus,

*mf*



24 *mf*

My Lord. She named him King Je - sus,

my Lord. She named him King Je - sus,

26 *f*

my Lord. She named him King Je - sus,

my Lord. She named him King Je - sus,

28

named him King Je - sus, she named him King Je - sus,

named him King Je - sus, she named him King Je - sus,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn '3. Mary Had a Baby'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble and bass clefs) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The first system starts at measure 24 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second system starts at measure 26 with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third system starts at measure 28. The lyrics are: 'My Lord. She named him King Je - sus, my Lord. She named him King Je - sus, my Lord. She named him King Je - sus, my Lord. She named him King Je - sus, named him King Je - sus, she named him King Je - sus, named him King Je - sus, she named him King Je - sus,'. A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid on the page.

30

*mf*

my Lord, my Lord.

my Lord.

*mf*

32

13

Where was he born,

Where was he born,

*f*

*f*

34

— my Lord? Where was he born,

O my Lord? Where was he born,

36 my Lord? *ff*  
O my Lord? *ff* Where was he born,

38 where was he born, where was he born,

40 my Lord? *ff* Born in a man - ger, *ff*

*f* *ff*

42

my Lord. Born in a man - ger,

This system contains measures 42 and 43. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a fermata over the final measure.

44

O my Lord. Born in a man - ger, was

This system contains measures 44 and 45. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a fermata over the final measure.

46

born in a man - ger, born in a man - ger, my Lord. O

*f* 14

This system contains measures 46 and 47. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a fermata over the final measure and a dynamic marking of *f*. A rehearsal mark 14 is present in the piano part.

49 soulfully

come, let us a - dore him, O

soulfully

This system contains measures 49 and 50. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The tempo/mood is marked 'soulfully'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

51

come, let us a - dore him, O

This system contains measures 51 and 52. It continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment from the previous system. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with some melodic movement in the right hand.

53

come, let us a - dore him, — Christ — the

This system contains measures 53 and 54. The vocal line includes a long note on 'Christ' and a phrase 'the'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. The system ends with a double bar line.

40

56

Solo

*mf*

*cresc.*

Ma-ry had a ba-by, my Lord. He is Christ

Lord. My Lord, Christ

*mf* *cresc.*

Slowly, freely ♩ = ca. 54

59

*rit.*

*f*

the Lord.

the Lord, Je-sus Christ the Lord.

*rit.* *f*

## 4. Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Words by LLOYD LARSON  
and CHARLES WESLEY

Arranged by LLOYD LARSON

Tunes: BRING A TORCH,  
Traditional French Carol,  
and HYFRYDOL by ROWLAND H. PRICHARD

**Narrator 1:** It was a quiet night; just an ordinary night. There were shepherds keeping watch over their sheep on a Judean hillside outside of Bethlehem.

**Narrator 2:** But this night became like no other night (*music begins*) when an angel appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified!

**Narrator 1:** The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy! Today in the town of David a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord. You will find the Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

**Narrator 2:** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all!"

Tenderly, freely ♩ = ca. 66  
"Still, Still, Still"  
Tune: STILL, STILL, STILL, Traditional Austrian Melody

15

Piano

*p*

5

*crese. poco a poco*

9

*mp*

*rit.*

13

Joyously, steadily ♩ = ca. 58

16

*mf*

The musical score is for a piano piece. It begins with a treble and bass clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked 'Piano' and 'p'. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked 'crese. poco a poco'. The third system (measures 9-12) is marked 'mp' and 'rit.'. The fourth system (measures 13-16) is marked 'Joyously, steadily' and 'mf'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

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16 S.A. Unison *mf*

Joy has dawned! — The an-gels are sing - ing.

T.B. Unison *mf*

19

Christ is born — this ho - ly night. Glo - ri - a in ex -

22

cel - sis De - o! Wel-come the Child, the King for-ev - er. Hope has



26

come to-night in Beth-le-hem. Go, wor-ship the new - born

30

King!

33

*mf*

Joy has dawned! - The heav-ens are ring - ing.

36

*mf*

Christ is born in a hum - ble stall. Glo - ri - a in ex -

39

cel - sis De - o! The Child ly - ing in a man - ger.  
cel - sis De - o! Find the Child ly - ing in a man - ger.

42

*mel.*

Peace has come to-night in Beth - le-hem.

45 *f*

Go, wor-ship the new - born King!

49 *mp*

Born to reign\_ in us for-ev - er, born to set\_ his peo - ple

53 *mf*

free; dear\_ De - sire\_ of

ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing

*f* heart. (17) *molto rit.*

heart, long - ing heart.

*f* *a tempo*

Joy has dawned! — The shep-herds are bring - ing gifts of love, ad - o -

*f* *a tempo*

66

ra - tion and praise. Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis

69

This is the Child that God had prom - ised. Love has

De - o! The Child that God had prom - ised.

72

come to - night in Beth - le - hem. Go, wor - ship the

75

*ff*

new - born King!

*ff*

*ff*

78

81

*mf* *ff*

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*mf* *ff*

*mf* *ff*

# 5. Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

with *Away in a Manger*

Arranged by  
LLOYD LARSON

Words and Music by  
KEITH GETTY and KRISTYN GETTY  
Incorporating CRADLE SONG  
by WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK

**Narrator 1:** The shepherds immediately left and soon found Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Baby, who was lying in the manger, just as the angel had told them.

**Narrator 2:** After offering their humble gifts of adoration and praise, they hurried off to spread the word of all they had witnessed: the angelic proclamation, the newborn Child in the manger, the wonder of two young parents embracing their miraculous roles in God's (*music begins*) unfolding story!

**Narrator 1:** All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said! But Mary treasured up all of these things and pondered them in her heart.

Simply, slowly ♩ = ca. 63

18

Piano *p*

4 Female Solo *p*

Je - sus, joy of the high-est heav - en, born as a lit-tle

7

ba - by un-der a won-drous star. Like us, cry-ing he takes his

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first breath, held by his moth-er, help-less, close to her beat-ing

Female Solo *mp*

heart. Je-sus, laid in a low-ly man-ger, fac-ing a world of

Male Solo *mp*

19

dan-gers; come to turn me, a stran-ger, in-to a child of God.



18 Female Solo

Je - sus, laid in a low - ly man - ger, fac - ing a world of

Male Solo

Je - sus, laid in a low - ly man - ger, fac - ing a world of

S.A. *mp*

Je - sus, laid in a low - ly man - ger, fac - ing a world of

T.B. *mp*

Je - sus, laid in a low - ly man - ger, fac - ing a world of

20

dan - gers; come to turn me, a stran - ger, in - to a child of God. end Solo

dan - gers; come to turn me, a stran - ger, in - to a child of God. end Solo

dan - gers; come to turn me, a stran - ger, in - to a child of God.

dan - gers; come to turn me, a stran - ger, in - to a child of God.

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*mf*

*cresc.*

Je - sus, King of the high - est heav - en, learn - ing to take his

*mf*

*mel.*

first steps that he might bring us life. \_\_\_\_\_

30 *mel. mf*

Like us, know-ing our smiles and sor - rows, he showed the way to

And like us, know-ing our smiles and sor - rows,

32 *f*

fol - low a way that is true and right. *f* Je - sus, take a-way ev-'ry

*f*

35

dark - ness; stead-y my sim - ple foot - steps that I might, in your

37

good - ness, live as a child of God. *ff* Je - sus, take a-way ev - 'ry

*ff*

40

dark - ness; stead-y my sim - ple foot - steps that I might, in Your

42

good - ness, *mf* live as a child of God, *mf* child of God. *mp* A -

*mf* **(21)** *poco accel.*

*poco accel.*

46 Slightly faster ♩ = ca. 76

way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the

Slightly faster ♩ = ca. 76

*mp*

50

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head; the stars in the

*mp*

55

bright sky looked down where He lay, the lit - tle Lord

59

Female Solo

rit.

Tempo I ♩ = ca. 63

*mp*

Je - sus, joy of the high-est  
Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

rit. Tempo I ♩ = ca. 63

63

rit. poco a poco al fine

*p*

heav-en, born as a lit-tle ba - by un-der a won-drous star.

rit. poco a poco al fine

## 6. Brightest and Best of the Stars

Words by REGINALD HEBER  
and WILLIAM C. DIX

Arranged with New Music  
by LLOYD LARSON  
Incorporating GREENSLEEVES  
Traditional English Melody

**Narrator 2:** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the reign of King Herod, there were Magi from the east who came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? (*music begins*) We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

**Narrator 1:** King Herod, disturbed by this inquiry, called together the chief priests and teachers of the law asking them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they replied, quoting from the prophet Micah.

**Narrator 2:** Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the Child. Then report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him."

**Narrator 1:** The Magi went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went before them until it stopped over the place where the Child was. There they found Jesus with His mother, Mary.

**Narrator 2:** They bowed down and worshipped Him. Opening their treasures, they presented Him gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh.

22 **Slowly, freely** ♩ = ca. 88  
"Coventry Carol"  
Traditional English Melody

Piano *p*

6 *mel.*

11

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58

16

*mel.*

*mp*

21

26

*molto rit.*

*p*

31

Gently flowing ♩ = ca. 40

*mp*

23

34

T.B. Unison

*mp*

Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



36

dawn on our dark-ness and come to our aid; star of the east, the ho-

39

ri - zon a-dorn - ing, guide where our in - fant Re -

41

deem - er is laid, guide where our Re - deem - er is

laid. What shall we  
What shall we give him, in

give in de - vo - tion? Shall we bring  
cost - ly de - vo - tion? Shall we bring in - cense and

of - f'rings di - vine, gems of the moun - tain and  
of - f'rings di - vine,

50

pearls of the o - cean, myrrh from the for - est or

52 *mp*

gold from the mine, myrrh or gold from the

54 *mel.*

mine? What Child is this, — who,

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system (measures 50-51) has the lyrics 'pearls of the o - cean, myrrh from the for - est or'. The second system (measures 52-53) has the lyrics 'gold from the mine, myrrh or gold from the'. The third system (measures 54-55) has the lyrics 'mine? What Child is this, — who,'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. There are dynamic markings 'mp' and 'mel.' and a large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' across the page.

57

laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is

This system contains measures 57 and 58. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

59

sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with

This system contains measures 59 and 60. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piano part continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

61

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are

This system contains measures 61 and 62. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piano part continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

63 *mf*

keep - ing? This, this is

65

Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and

67

an - gels sing; haste, haste to

The image shows a musical score for three systems of music. Each system consists of a vocal line (soprano and bass clefs) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system (measures 63-64) has lyrics 'keep - ing? This, this is' and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second system (measures 65-66) has lyrics 'Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and'. The third system (measures 67-68) has lyrics 'an - gels sing; haste, haste to'. A large, diagonal watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid across the score, with 'Since 1892' written below it. The watermark also includes the text 'PREVIEW COPY NOT FOR PERFORMANCE'.

bring him laud, the babe, the son of

Ma - ry. So

*mp* (25)

bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

*mf*

76

peas - ant, king, to own him; the

78

King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let

King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let

80

lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

66

82

*f*

Raise, raise the song on high, the

84

vir - gin sings her lul - la - by. Joy, joy, for

87

*dim. poco a poco*

Christ is born, the babe, the

*dim. poco a poco*



89 *poco rit.* *a tempo*  
*mp*  
son of Ma - ry.  
*mp*  
*poco rit.* *a tempo*  
*mp*

92 *rit.*  
Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
*rit.*

94 *Slowly*  
*p*  
guide where our Re - deem - er is laid.  
*p*

*Slowly*  
*p*

# 7. Joy Has Dawned

with *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Arranged by  
LLOYD LARSON

Words and Music by  
KEITH GETTY and STUART TOWNEND  
Incorporating GLORIA,  
Traditional French Carol

**Narrator 1:** The Christmas story is a story of joy!

*Choir Member 1:* The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!

*Choir Member 2:* Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

*Choir Member 3:* The joy of the Lord is my strength!

*Choir Member 4:* Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy! (*music begins*)

*Choir Member 5:* Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

**Narrator 2:** This is a story of great joy! It is the fulfillment of God's promise to end the night of suffering with the dawn of redeeming light.

26 Joyously  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 58$

Piano

*mf*

5

*cresc.*

*f*

9

*dim.*

The piano accompaniment is written in 3/2 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music. The first system starts at measure 26 and is marked 'Joyously' with a tempo of approximately 58 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mf'. The second system starts at measure 5 and includes a 'cresc.' (crescendo) marking and a 'f' (forte) dynamic. The third system starts at measure 9 and includes a 'dim.' (diminuendo) marking. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines in both the treble and bass staves.

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Children's Choir (opt. Unis. Voices)

13 *mf*

Glo ri - a

17

in ex-cel-sis De - o! Glo

21

ri - a in ex-cel-sis De -

25 27 end Children's Choir (opt. Unis. Voices)

o!

29 *mf* S.A. Unison

Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion;

*mf* T.B. Unison

33

God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.

37

Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,

41 *mf*

but a hum-ble gift of love: Je - sus born of Ma -

*mf*

45 *poco rit.* Slightly slower  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

ry. \_\_\_\_\_

*poco rit.* Slightly slower  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

49 *mp*

Sounds of won-der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels

*mp*

An - gels

*mp*

as the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
sing the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.

*mf*  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in

*mp*  
cling now to a moth - er's breast  
dark - ness, vul -

64 Children's Choir (opt. Unis. Voices) 29 poco accel. Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 56$  *mf*

Come to Beth - le -

S.A. *mf*

vul - n'ra-ble and help - less.

T.B. *mf*

- n'ra - ble and help - less.

poco accel. Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 56$  *RH detached* *mf*

pedal sparingly

67

hem, and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

70

come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the

74

Children's Choir (opt. Unis. Voices)

73

*f*

new - born King. Glo

High Voice Descant *f*

Glo

S.A. *f*

Glo

T.B. *f*

77

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a,

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -



81

glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a

ri-a

ri-a

84

*mf* end Children's Choir (opt. Unis. Voices)

in ex-cel-sis De-o!

*mf* end High Voice Descant

in ex-cel-sis De-o!

*mf*

in ex-cel-sis De-o!

*mf*

*mf*

S.A.

30 rit.

Broadly  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 52$ 

*f*

Shep-herds bow be-fore the Lamb,

T.B.

*f*

*rit.*

*cresc.*

*f*

Broadly  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 52$

gaz - ing at the glo - ry; gifts of men from

dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto -

sto -

3

Children's Choir (opt. Unis. Voices)

98

*f*

Glo - ri - a

High Voice Descant *f*

S.A. ry. Glo - ri - a

T.B. ry. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo-ri-a

102

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

a in ex-cel - sis De - o! Glo-ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Sing glo - ri -

105

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ri - a  
glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a  
a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a

This section of the score covers measures 105 to 107. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a' repeated across the staves. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

108

*cresc.* **molto rit.**  
in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
*cresc.*  
in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
*cresc.*  
in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
*cresc.*  
**molto rit.**

This section covers measures 108 to 111. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'in ex - cel - sis De - o!' repeated. The score includes performance directions: 'cresc.' (crescendo) and 'molto rit.' (molto ritardando). The piano part features a 'cresc.' marking and 'molto rit.' markings, with a fermata over the final chord. The piano part ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

# 8. Jesus Christ Is Born!

Arranged with New Music  
by LLOYD LARSON

(Narration begins at measure 9)

**Narrator 1:** With angels, shepherds, and Magi, we celebrate the joyous news that the Messiah has been born!

**Narrator 2:** Joy has dawned upon the world!

**Narrator 1:** Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king!

**Narrator 2:** Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. For Christ is born today!

**Narrator 1:** Go, tell it! Go, and shout it from the mountaintops: Jesus Christ is born!

**31** **Slowly, freely** ♩ = ca. 69  
 “Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”  
 Music: ANTIOCH, by Lowell Mason, based on G.F. Handel

Piano

*p*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*mp*

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17

rit.

Buoyantly ♩ = ca. 76

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, Traditional German Melody;  
Words: Latin Carol, tr. John M. Neale

32

S.A.T.B. Unison *mf*

21

Good

Buoyantly ♩ = ca. 76

25

29

33 S.A. Unison  
 ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 T.B. Unison

37  
 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

41 *mf*  
 Good Chris - tian friends, re - *mf*  
 Good

45

joyce with heart and soul and voice;  
 Chris - tian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and

48

now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this;  
 voice; of end - less bliss;

52

he has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.



56 rit.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for

60 Joyously, steadily ♩ = ca. 58 33

this!

Joyously, steadily ♩ = ca. 58

63 *mf*

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo!”  
 Music: BRING A TORCH, Traditional French Carol  
 and HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard;  
 Words by Lloyd Larson and Charles Wesley

Joy has dawned! The an-gels are sing - ing.

66

Christ is born— this ho - ly night. Glo - ri - a in ex -

This system contains measures 66, 67, and 68. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Christ is born— this ho - ly night. Glo - ri - a in ex -".

69

cel - sis De - o! Wel-come the Child, the King for - ev - er.

This system contains measures 69, 70, and 71. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "cel - sis De - o! Wel-come the Child, the King for - ev - er.".

72

Hope has come— to - night in Beth - le - hem.

This system contains measures 72, 73, and 74. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Hope has come— to - night in Beth - le - hem.".

75

Go, wor-ship the new - born King!

79 *mp*

Born to reign in us for-ev - er, born to set his peo - ple

*mp*

*mp*

83 *mf*

free; dear De - sire of

*mf*

*mf*

86

86

rit.

ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing

With energy and joy ♩ = ca. 112

89

heart.

With energy and joy ♩ = ca. 112

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Music: GO TELL IT, African American Spiritual;

Words: John W. Work

*mf marcato*

92

34

Go, tell — it on the

94

moun - tain, — o - ver — the hills and ev - 'ry - where; —

97

go, — tell — it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ — is born. —

100

While shep - herds kept their

*mp* *legato*

*mp*

103

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -

106

hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly

109

*cresc.* light. *cresc.* Go, tell — it on the

*mf* like before *mf* Go, — tell — it on the

112

moun - tain, — o - ver — the hills and ev - 'ry - where; —

moun - tain, —

115

go, — tell — it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ — is born. —

that Je - sus Christ is born,

118

is born. —

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (treble and bass clefs) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The lyrics are: 'moun - tain, — o - ver — the hills and ev - 'ry - where; —', 'moun - tain, —', 'go, — tell — it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ — is born. —', 'that Je - sus Christ is born,', and 'is born. —'. The score is marked with measure numbers 112, 115, and 118. A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company' is overlaid on the page.

121 (35)

*mf* *legato*

The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when,

*mp* *mf*

a - bove the earth, a  
lo! a - bove the earth rang out the an - gel

*mel.* *cresc.*

cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth. *cresc.*

cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth. *cresc.*



130 *f* like before

Go, tell it on the

*f* Go, tell it on the

133

moun - tain, — o - ver — the hills and ev - 'ry - where; —

moun - tain, —

136

go, — tell — it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born. —

139

Joy has — dawned, hear the an-gels' song, — that  
that

142

*cresc.* *poco rit.* *ff a tempo*  
Je - sus Christ is born! —  
*cresc.*  
Je - sus Christ is born, is — born, — Christ is — born! —  
*poco rit.* *a tempo*  
*cresc.* *ff*

146

Je - sus Christ is born! —

## Joy Has Dawned

### *A Christmas Celebration*

Composed and Arranged by Lloyd Larson    Orchestrated by Ed Hogan

#### 1. How Great Our Joy! (p. 2)

##### *Narration (p. 15)*

**Narrator 1:** Joy to the world! The Lord has come! Joy has dawned, and today we celebrate God's great gift of love to all! But to Old Testament Israel, the hope of a brighter tomorrow – the promise of a joyful (*music begins*) future – seemed an elusive dream.

**Narrator 2:** For over 400 years, God's chosen people languished in bondage, longing for the day when the promised Messiah would come to deliver them. The prophet Isaiah had assured them that, though they were a people walking in darkness, a great light would eventually shine upon them.

**Narrator 1:** A Child would be born; a Son given. And the government would be upon His shoulders and He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

**Narrator 2:** Anguish and weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

#### 2. Joy in the Morning (p. 15)

##### *Narration (p. 31)*

**Narrator 2:** Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and give birth to Emmanuel. In God's perfect timing, a young maiden named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David, was chosen by God to become the mother of the promised Messiah.

**Narrator 1:** And so it came to be that Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Mary and Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem, the town of David. And while they were there, the time came for the baby to be born.

**Narrator 2:** Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, for there had been no room for them in the inn. (*music begins*)

#### 3. Mary Had a Baby (p. 31)

***Narration (p. 41)***

**Narrator 1:** It was a quiet night; just an ordinary night. There were shepherds keeping watch over their sheep on a Judean hillside outside of Bethlehem.

**Narrator 2:** But this night became like no other night (*music begins*) when an angel appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified!

**Narrator 1:** The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy! Today in the town of David a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord. You will find the Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Narrator 2:** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all!”

**4. Gloria in Excelsis Deo! (p. 41)*****Narration (p. 49)***

**Narrator 1:** The shepherds immediately left and soon found Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Baby, who was lying in the manger, just as the angel had told them.

**Narrator 2:** After offering their humble gifts of adoration and praise, they hurried off to spread the word of all they had witnessed: the angelic proclamation, the newborn Child in the manger, the wonder of two young parents embracing their miraculous roles in God’s (*music begins*) unfolding story!

**Narrator 1:** All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said! But Mary treasured up all of these things and pondered them in her heart.

**5. Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven (p. 49)*****Narration (p. 57)***

**Narrator 2:** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the reign of King Herod, there were Magi from the east who came to Jerusalem asking, “Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? (*music begins*) We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

**Narrator 1:** King Herod, disturbed by this inquiry, called together the chief priests and teachers of the law asking them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they replied, quoting from the prophet Micah.

**Narrator 2:** Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the Child. Then report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him.”

**Narrator 1:** The Magi went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went before them until it stopped over the place where the Child was. There they found Jesus with His mother, Mary.

**Narrator 2:** They bowed down and worshipped Him. Opening their treasures, they presented Him gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh.

## 6. Brightest and Best of the Stars (p. 57)

*Narration (p. 68)*

**Narrator 1:** The Christmas story is a story of joy!

*Choir Member 1:* The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!

*Choir Member 2:* Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

*Choir Member 3:* The joy of the Lord is my strength!

*Choir Member 4:* Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy! (*music begins*)

*Choir Member 5:* Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

**Narrator 2:** This is a story of great joy! It is the fulfillment of God's promise to end the night of suffering with the dawn of redeeming light.

## 7. Joy Has Dawned (p. 68)

*Narration (p. 79) (Narration begins at measure 9)*

**Narrator 1:** With angels, shepherds, and Magi, we celebrate the joyous news that the Messiah has been born!

**Narrator 2:** Joy has dawned upon the world!

**Narrator 1:** Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king!

**Narrator 2:** Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. For Christ is born today!

**Narrator 1:** Go, tell it! Go, and shout it from the mountaintops: Jesus Christ is born!

## 8. Jesus Christ Is Born! (p. 79)

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