

A Most Beautiful Gift



A Christmas Hymn-Sing of Stories & Music

(about 35-40 min. in length)

- ♥ This Hymn-Sing can be used in any non-profit setting or family Christmas gathering. Two of the scripture readings are from the Book of Mormon.
- ♥ The hymns are intended to be sung by the audience / congregation or family group to maximize their participation. If the program needs to be shorter than 35-40 minutes, fewer verses of the hymns can be sung.
- ♥ The readings can be done by various assigned persons.
- ♥ The story & poetry references are from the *Ensign* magazine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (aka: LDS or Mormon). The web sources are included.
- ♥ The Hymn #s are from the 1985 LDS Hymn Book.
- ♥ It is recommended that a printed outline of the program be handed out so the audience can anticipate the hymn singing.
- ♥ In the readings, please remember to reference the title & author of the story / poem / scripture.

Christmas Hymn-Sing
A Most Beautiful Gift

(Collated/organized by SMSmith)

Nephi: And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white. 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: Knowest thou the condescension of God? And I said unto him: I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things. 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 it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; and after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time the angel spake unto me, saying: Look! 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!

(Book of Mormon | 1 Nephi 11:13-21)

Luke: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

(New Testament | Luke 2:6-7)

HYMN #208 ~ “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs: 1- 3)

Luke: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 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 Saviour, 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. 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.

(New Testament | Luke 2:8-14)

HYMN #209 ~ “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (vs: 1 - 2)

Luke: 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 even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (New Testament | Luke 2:15-20)

HYMN #212 ~ “Far, Far Away on Judea’s Plains” (vs: 1 - 4)

Nephi: And after [the angel] had said these words, he said unto me: Look! And I looked, and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw many fall down at his feet and worship him. ... (31) And he spake unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked, ... And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick, and who were afflicted with all manner of diseases, and with devils and unclean spirits; and the angel spake and showed all these things unto me. And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God; ... (Book of Mormon | 1 Nephi 11: 24, 31)

HYMN #202 ~ “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs: 1 - 3)

POEM: “Unto the Least of These” by Marilyn McMeen Miller Brown
(Ensign, Dec. 1976, IFC)
<http://www.lds.org/ensign/1976/12/poetry?lang=eng>

HYMN #207 ~ “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (vs: 1 - 3)

STORY: “The Most Beautiful Gift” by Peggy Britton
(Ensign, Dec. 1982, 15-16)
<http://www.lds.org/ensign/1982/12/mormon-journal?lang=eng> (Story #4)

HYMN #206 ~ “Away in a Manger” (vs: 1 - 3)

STORY: “Reluctant Scouts” by Sims W. Lowry
(Ensign, Dec. 1989, 33-4)
<http://www.lds.org/ensign/1989/12/mormon-journal?lang=eng> (Story #3)

HYMN #214 ~ “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” (vs: 1 - 5)

STORY: “Two Dimes and a Nickel” by Richard A. Robb
(Ensign, Dec. 1986, 53)
<http://www.lds.org/ensign/1986/12/two-dimes-and-a-nickel?lang=eng>

John A Widstoe: “The Gifts of Christmas” (selected portion)

“... Our first gift at Christmas should be to the Lord; next to the friend or stranger by our gate; then, surcharged with the effulgence from such giving, we would enhance the value of our gifts to our very own. A selfish gift leaves a scar upon the soul, and it is but half a gift.

How can we give to the Lord? What shall we give to him? Every kind word to our own, every help given them, is as a gift to God, whose chief concern is the welfare of his children. Every gentle deed to our neighbor, every kindness to the poor and suffering, is a gift to the Lord, before whom all mankind are equal. Every conformity to the Lord’s plan of salvation—and this is of first importance—is a direct gift to God, for thereby we fit ourselves more nearly for our divinely planned destiny.

<http://www.lds.org/ensign/1972/12/the-gifts-of-christmas?lang=eng>

Isaiah: 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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

HYMN #201 ~ “Joy to the World” (vs: 1 - 4)