

*Unto Us a Child is Born:*  
*A Christmas Journey*



Arranged and Directed  
by Juliane LaRocca  
Narrated by Rev. Joanne Myer  
Presented by the Senior Choir  
Trumpet by Ken Bell

Narrator: But you, Bethlehem . . . though you are small, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace.

## ADVENT HYMN

Narrator: Christmas is the story of a Promise.

For hundreds of years, God had been making promises to His people. He had promised a Prince, a Shepherd, a Healer, a Conqueror, a Prophet, a Priest, a Lion, a Lamb. He had promised Peace. He had promised Freedom. He had promised Love and Life without end.

Finally, one evening, in the blackness of midnight, the promises all came wrapped together as one magnificent Promise. The Promise was a Baby. The Promise was Emmanuel. The Promise was God himself.

The people had been waiting, and waiting, and waiting. They had nearly lost hope through the years of sacrifice, of endless journeys, of long, difficult days. Yet still they waited, and hoped, and prepared. Prepared the way for the coming of our Savior.

## COME, MESSIAH, COME!

Narrator: Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way:

When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

It was at this time that 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.

And so the couple set out on the arduous journey that lay before them. They only had their faith and the light of the desert stars to guide them, but it was enough.

It led them to a sleeping village, a simple stable, a manger of warm straw . . . and the newborn Son of God.

SWEET SILENT NIGHT

Narrator: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of a David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord"...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 men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

## ANGELS ARE MAKING THEIR ROUNDS

Narrator: Love was born on that night in Bethlehem, and each and every one of us will never be the same. For through this birth, this gift of heaven, God provided a way for humankind to fall into the arms of the holy and loving God.

Christmas is a gift of Love, sent directly from Heaven. It was Love that celebrated that night in the skies over Bethlehem with angels, music, and shouts of praise. Love was the shining star high in the sky, sent to draw people from far away to come and worship the Baby. Christmas is a story of Love; Love that has come to us, Love that has brightened our lives, and Love that is, was, and always will be Jesus Christ.

## JOY TO THE WORLD!