

He Is the Gift

HE IS THE GIFT shawnaedwardsmusic.com/pages/he-is-the-gift?

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you *good tidings of great joy*.”

Christmas is a happy time of year because we celebrate and honor the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The first gift was not wrapped, had no bow, wasn't purchased online, or in a store. The first gift of Christmas was a simple gift, a sacred gift. It wasn't gold, frankincense, or myrrh. It was a gift of love and life and peace and hope, given by a Father to all His children. “For God so loved the world” and so loved you, and you, and you, and every single one of us, He gave His Son. He is the Christ, He is the gift this christmas season. Discover the gift; embrace the gift. (#HEISTHEGIFT)

HE SENT HIS SON or WHAT CHILD IS THIS? (instrument)

“And the angel said...Mary...behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest...”

While on the earth, Jesus lived a perfect life and set a perfect example for all of us to follow. He also made it possible for us to return to the presence of our Heavenly Father when we leave this life. He is our Savior and our Redeemer.

Jesus taught us to love one another. He told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to do unto others as we would want them to do to us, and to pray for and do good to everyone.

Jesus showed special love for children. On one occasion He directed His disciples to let the children come to Him, “for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS (Primary)

Giving gifts has been a meaningful tradition ever since that first Christmas. The birth of Jesus Christ was a divine gift to all mankind. Shortly after He was born, Wise Men came from afar bringing gifts for the Christ Child.

“And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was...and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”

Christmas and some of the cherished traditions of the season remind us that we, like the Wise Men of old, should seek the Christ and lay before Him the most precious of gifts: a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We should offer Him our love. We should give Him our willingness to take upon ourselves His name and walk in the path of discipleship. We should promise to remember Him always, to emulate His example, and to go about doing good. (True Gifts of Christmas, Uchtdorf)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER (congregation)

“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.”

[At] the first Christmas there were no tinsel Christmas trees, no family gatherings, no children at play. Christmas gifts? There were none at that time. But God now gave His gift to the world—that of His Only Begotten Son. What a gift this was! Think what it means to us! We can learn patience, devotion, and faithfulness. We can follow the true gospel principles, being in the world but not of the world. We can be kind and thoughtful. We can be honest and fair to others. (The Gifts of Christmas, Petersen)

Christmas gifts do not need to be purchased in stores. We can use our own special talents to make gifts for our families and friends, or we can offer gifts of service to others. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” One of the most important gifts we can give this Christmas season is to do what He has asked of us. (To the Children of the World: The Gift of Christmas, 1986)

WHAT CAN WE GIVE? (choir) www.jwpepper.com/what-shall-we-give-3295691-1140622/p

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.

Is there something you can...consecrate—[a gift] that perhaps you never thought the Lord might want? We think of limitations as something to get rid of, and certainly we should not cling voluntarily to any limitation that hinders our spiritual growth. But what about a physical handicap? What does offering deafness or blindness to the Lord make of that handicap? What about poverty? What about a spiritual gift such as the gift of faith to be healed? What about a discerning heart? What about the desire to minister? What about singleness? What about the circumstances of a divorce? Don't think that the Lord can do without any of your gifts, no matter how you feel about them. (Lighten up! Chieko Okazaki)

This is exactly the kind of gift that Joseph Mohr offered when the St. Nicholas' church organ wasn't working and would not be repaired before Christmas. Mohr remembered a poem he had written a few years before and decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas Eve service. The one problem was that he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung. So, the next day Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to come up with a melody which could be sung with a guitar. However, by that evening, Gruber had managed to compose a musical setting for the poem. It no longer mattered to Mohr and Gruber that their church organ was inoperable. They had written "Silent Night" and reminded the world that our most powerful gifts can come from what we lack. (traditional story)

SILENT NIGHT (small group or family)

"Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!...[And] The love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the most desireable above all things...Yea, and the most joyous to the soul."

This is a wonderful time of the year. It may not be perfect. But if Christmas can point our hearts toward our Savior, we can rejoice even in the imperfections of the season. May we always remember to bring gifts to Him who has given His all for us. And may each Christmas season remind us to lift up our voices and fill our hearts with joy and gratitude that Christ lives! He is real. He is our Redeemer. (True Gifts of Christmas, Uchtdorf)

Heavenly Father is ever mindful of those who need, who seek, who trust, who pray, and who listen when He speaks. God's gift becomes our blessing. May every heart open wide and welcome Him—Christmas day and always. (Christmas Gifts, Christmas Blessings, Monson)

HE IS BORN, THE DIVINE CHRIST CHILD (congregation)

What Shall We Give?

What shall we give to the Babe in the manger

What shall we offer the Child in the stall?

Incense and spices and gold we've got plenty;

Are these the gifts for the King of us all?

What shall we give to the Boy in the temple,

What shall we offer the Man by the sea?

Palms at His feet and hosannas uprising;

Are these for Him who will carry the tree?

What shall we give to the Lamb who was offered,

Rising the third day and shedding His love?

Tears for His mercy we'll weep at the manger,

Bathing the Infant come down from above.