ALL PRAISE TO THEE, ETERNAL LORD

Hymn Devotion – December 6

Scripture: Galatians 4:4-6

Isaiah 9:2

All praise to Thee, eternal Lord,   
Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;   
Choosing a manger for Thy throne,   
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.

Once did the skies before Thee bow;   
A virgin’s arms contain Thee now,   
While angels, who in Thee rejoice,   
Now listen for Thine infant voice.

A little child, Thou art our guest,   
That weary ones in Thee may rest;   
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth;   
That we may rise to Heaven from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night  
To make us children of the light;  
To make us, in the realms divine,  
Like Thine own angels round Thee shine.

All this for us Thy love hath done;   
By this to Thee our love is won;   
For this we tune our cheerful lays,   
And sing our thanks in ceaseless praise.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Translator Unknown, 1858

Because of this love Jesus has for us we sing a cheerful lay or song and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise!

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year but so often sadly lost because of the desire to give gifts above and beyond our means and spend the major part of the year catching up on the Christmas bill – Our goal should be to sing cheerful songs and shout thanks in ceaseless praise – make giving a joy not an expensive chore! Giving out of our love for Christ and for each other.

1. How is Jesus described?
2. How is He clothed?
3. Describe the contrast of the manger and having worlds of worlds Thine own:
4. Verse 2: What did the skies do?
5. What contains Him?
6. Who rejoiced?
7. What did they listen for after the birth?
8. Verse 3: What was He while on earth?
9. What do the weary ones find?
10. How is His birth described?
11. What may we do now?
12. Verse 4: When does He come?
13. What does He make us?
14. Where?
15. What are we like?
16. Verse 5: What is it all about?
17. What is won?
18. Lays are a song. What is the attitude of our lays?
19. How do we shout our thanks?

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME

Hymn Devotion – December 7

Scripture: Luke 2:10-11, 13-14

From heaven above to earth I come,  
To bear good news to every home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing.

To you, this night, is born a Child  
Of Mary, chosen mother mild;  
This little Child, of lowly birth,  
Shall be the joy of all your earth.

Were earth a thousand times as fair,  
Beset with gold and jewels rare,  
She yet were far too poor to be  
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

Glory to God in highest Heaven,  
Who unto man His Son hath given!  
While angels sing, with pious mirth,  
A glad New Year to all the earth.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Translated by:

Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

This hymn was written for Hans, Martin Luther’s young son to sing at a family Christmas gathering.

This Christmas let the joy the Christ Child brings make a soft, undefiled, bed in our heart and sing with the angels to God in highest heaven as Jesus ushers in a glad new year to all the earth but especially to us individually.

1. What was Jesus’ journey?
2. What did He come to do?
3. What did He bring?
4. What will He do now?
5. Verse 2: What happened “this night”?
6. What was Mary chosen to do?
7. What kind of birth did this Child have?
8. What did He bring to earth?
9. Verse 3: What would earth need to be?
10. What would earth need to set in?
11. How would she – earth still be?
12. What to be for the Lord?
13. Verse 4: How is Jesus described?
14. What kind of bed?
15. Where is this bed?
16. What may it be?
17. Verse 5: Who are we giving glory to?
18. What has God done?
19. Who sang?
20. What did Jesus usher in?

THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE

Hymn Devotion – December 8

Scripture: John 1:10-12

Philippians 2:6-7

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem’s home was there found no room  
For Thy holy nativity.

*Refrain- verses 1-4*

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for Thee.*

Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,  
And in great humility.

*Refrain*

The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest  
In the shade of the forest tree;  
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of God,  
In the deserts of Galilee.

*Refrain*

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word,  
That should set Thy people free;  
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,  
They bore Thee to Calvary.

*Refrain*

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,  
At Thy coming to victory,  
Let Thy voice call me home,  
Saying Yet there is room,  
There is room at My side for thee.

*Refrain - verse 5*

*My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
When Thou comest and callest for me.*

Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott (1836-1879)

This hymn is about making room for Jesus, in our hearts – TODAY – we don’t know when He will call us home either in death or His return.

1. What did He leave?
2. Where did He go?
3. Where was there no room?
4. What was there no room for?
5. Verse 2: What rang?

When who sang?

1. A definition of degree is status. What did the angels proclaim?
2. How did He come to earth?(name both)
3. Verse 3: Who all found a home?
4. Where is their home?
5. What was His couch?
6. How is Jesus described?
7. Where geographically was His home?
8. Verse 4: What did the Lord come with?
9. What was this going to do?
10. What was He met with?
11. Where did He end up His earthly journey?
12. Verse 5: What will happen in the future?
13. What will be coming?
14. What will His voice do?
15. What will His voice be saying?
16. Chorus for first four verses: Where are we inviting Jesus to be?
17. What is there room for there?
18. Second Chorus: What shall our heart do?
19. When what happens?

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Hymn Devotion – December 9

Scripture: John 1:1-3, 14

Habakkuk 2:20

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,   
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,   
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph,   
Cherubim with sleepless eye,   
Veil their faces to the presence,   
As with ceaseless voice they cry:   
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Liturgy of St. James

Translated by Gerard Moultrie

(1829-1885)

This hymn could be taken either way – the birth or the second coming but however we are to be in awe of Him with a clear mind as the Light of light vanishes the darkness of sin out of this world – King of Kings and Lord of Lords – Alleluia!

1. Who are the ones to keep silent?
2. What are we to do?
3. How are we not to ponder?
4. How does Christ our God descend?
5. What does He demand?
6. Verse 2: What is the contrast in first line?
7. Vesture is covering – in the flesh How did He of old stand on the earth?(list all)
8. What will He give to all the faithful?
9. Verse 3: Vanguard – front line – Who were the vanguard of announcing Jesus’ birth?
10. How is Jesus described?
11. Where are the realms of endless day?
12. What are the powers of hell?
13. What will the Light do?
14. Verse 4: Who are at His feet?
15. What was over their faces?
16. What is their ceaseless cry?

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Hymn Devotion – December 10

Scripture: Luke 2:4-8

In the bleak midwinter,

Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,

Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,

Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter,

Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him,

Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away

When He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter

A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,

Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels

May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim

Thronged the air;  
But His mother only,

In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved

With a kiss.

What can I give Him,

Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,

I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man,

I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him:

Give my heart.

Christina G. Rosetti (1830-1894)

Don’t let the bleakness of this world turn us away from Jesus -If we are wise men – wise people – we are still seeking Jesus to be in our hearts!

1. How is the midwinter described?
2. What are the descriptions of nature?
3. What is the visual thought of the snow?
4. When was this winter?
5. Verse 2: What cannot hold Him?

What cannot sustain Him?

1. What will happen when He comes to reign?
2. What sufficed in the bleak midwinter?
3. Who did it suffice for?
4. Verse 3: Who gathered and thronged the air?
5. Who was in her maiden bliss?
6. Who did she worship?
7. How did she show that worship?
8. Verse 4: What is the age old question?
9. What could a shepherd bring?
10. What would a wise man do?
11. What must we give Him?