

SONGS OF THE NATIVITY

UTTERANCES OF PROPHET, SAINT AND APOSTLE UPON THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM.



MADONNA



15 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Edmund H. Sears CAROL R. S. WILKS

1 It came up - on the mid night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2 Still thro' the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 O ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! the days are hast - ning on, By proph - et - bards fore told,
From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
And still ce - les - tial mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;
Who toll a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow -
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heav'n's all - gra - cious King."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
Look up! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing,
When peace shall o - ver - all the earth its si - nal splen - dors bring,
The earth in hol - emn still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing,
And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing!
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!
And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing!

SONG OF THE PROPHET.

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,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government,
And of peace, there shall be no end.
Upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom:
To establish it, and to uphold it with judgment.
And with righteousness, from henceforth even for ever.
The zeal of the Lord of Hosts shall perform this.
He was despised and rejected of men;
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
And as one from whom men hide their face he was despised,
And we esteemed him not.
Surely he hath borne our griefs,
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we did not esteem him stricken,
Smitten of God and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement of our peace was upon him;
And with his stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned every one to his own way:
And the Lord hath laid on him
The iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed,
Yet he humbled himself,
And opened not his mouth;
As a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
And as a sheep that before her shears is dumb;
Yes, he opened not his mouth.

SONG OF THE MOTHER.

And Mary arose in these days and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; and entered into the house of Zacharias and saluted Elizabeth. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in the Lord my Saviour. For he hath looked upon the low estate of his hand-maiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is unto generations and generations on them that fear him. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart. He hath put down princes from their thrones, and hath exalted them of low degree. The hungry he hath filled with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen Israel his servant, that he might remember mercy (As he spake unto our fathers) toward Abraham and his seed for ever. And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned unto her house.

SONG OF A FATHER.

Now Elizabeth's time was fulfilled that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her kinsfolk heard that the Lord had magnified his mercy towards her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass on the eighth day that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father, what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he prophesied, saying: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; For he hath visited and wrought redemption for his people. And hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets which have been since the world began). Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To shew mercy towards our fathers, And to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore unto Abraham our father, To grant unto us that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, Should serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. Yea and thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High; For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to make ready his way; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people in the remission of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring from on high shall visit us, To shine upon them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death; To guide our feet into the way of peace. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel.

SONG OF THE ANGELS.

Now it came to pass in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrolment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to enrol themselves, every one to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to enrol himself with Mary, who was betrothed to him, being great with child. And it came to pass, while they were there, the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flocks. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people; for there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you; Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and 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 among men in whom he is well pleased. And it came to pass, when the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they saw it, they made known concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this child. And all that heard it wondered at the things which were spoken unto them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken unto them.

SONG OF A SAINT.

And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were fulfilled, they brought him up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord, and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, that they might do concerning him after the custom of the law, then he received him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, Now lettest thou thy servant depart, O Lord, according to thy word, in peace; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And his father and his mother were marveling at the things which were spoken concerning him; and Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the falling and rising up of many in Israel; and for a sign which is spoken against; yea, and a sword shall pierce through thine own soul; that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.

SONG OF THE STAR.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we saw his star in the East, and are come to worship him. And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ should be born. And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judaea; for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, land of Judah, Art in no wise least among the princes of Judah, For out of thee shall come forth a governor, which shall be shepherd of my people Israel. Then Herod privily called the wise men, and learned of them carefully what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search out carefully concerning the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word, that I also may come and worship him. And they, having heard the king, went their way; 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 saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshiped him; and opening their treasures they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.



CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE.

SONG OF SORROW.

Now when they were departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I tell thee; for Herod will seek the young child, to destroy him. And he arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt; and was there until the death of Herod; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt did I call my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth and slew all the male children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the borders thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had carefully learned of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremias the prophet, saying, A voice was heard in Ramah, Weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; And she would not be comforted because they are not.

SONG OF THE AGES.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light. There was the true light, even the light which lighteth every man, coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth. John beareth witness of him, and crieth, saying, This was he of whom I said, He that cometh after me is become before me; for he was before me. For of his fullness we all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses; grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD