

ARTISTS THROUGH THE AGES TELL CHRISTMAS STORY



THE NATIVITY: Van Dyke (1599-1641)

"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."



THREE WISE MEN: Stoddard (1861-1940)

"Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star . . . and are come to worship him."



ADORATION OF MAGI: Laib (15th Century)

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and . . . they presented unto him gifts."



ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS: Garofalo (16th Century)

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds . . . came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

The Messianic Hope Fulfilled

(CHRISTMAS LESSON)
STUDY FOR DEC. 25, 1949.

By Wm. Southern, Jr.
All Hebrews believed that there would be a Messiah. They believed that the Messiah when He came and made all things right would come for the Hebrews only, but when the Messiah did come He came for all the world, for all people everywhere.

Isaiah wrote his prophesy of the coming Messiah when the great Assyrian host was threatening on the horizon. Jeremiah a hundred years later wrote in much the same tone when the nation was dying and Nebuchadnezzar was about to make the Hebrews a nation of captive slaves.

They each expressed the long held belief of their people that a Messiah would appear and with Him would come a reign of Peace, all their enemies crushed and their Prince of Peace should rule.

Six hundred years later Dr. Luke recorded the birth of Christ, the word is simply the Greek for Messiah. There were no wars then, the Romans were the rulers of the civilized world and there was peace.

Isaiah and Jeremiah said that the Messiah would come, that is true, but theirs was not a prophesy foretelling the birth of Jesus Christ. It was simply the expression of their belief in the universally held certainty of Hebrew thought.

Christmas day, the anniversary of the birth, is everywhere celebrated as the anniversary of the birth of the Messiah. But for Christ and Christianity there would be no Christmas. On that day we Christians renew our faith, again proclaim to the world that we are Christians. If Christ had not lived there would have been no Christmas.

When Jesus was born the shepherds came and looked at the little babe and, I think brought gifts. There is a legend that a little boy with the shepherds wept because he had no gift for the new born babe, and that his tears as they fell were changed to pearls making the most beautiful gift of all. Roark Bradford in his Christmas story of the first "Sandy Claws" had him bring a single red apple as a gift. It is told in the gospels that later rich Wise Men came bringing gifts of great value and significance. Since that time we bring gifts to the newly born babes of our love and since that time we make Christmas day, the anniversary of the birth of the Messiah, a day of gifts and joy and feast.

The song of the heavens when Jesus was born was:—
Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men
In whom he is well pleased.

We have told the beautiful story in the two thousand years which have passed since that wonderful night and we have sung "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," never adding "In Whom He Is Well

Pleased." We have thought peace on earth is promised, and will be given to us without effort on our part. That has been our mistake and that is why we "sit in darkness, in the shadow of death" today.

Jesus said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and we said, "How can we do that? Surely He did not mean all the world. Surely He did not mean 'every creature.'" Jesus never said a word he did not mean. He meant all the world. He meant every creature. Until we take Him at His word, we will not have peace on earth. When the time was right, came airplanes. When the time was right, came radio. What is it given to us for? Why, to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Christmas in America is a happy time, a time of open hearts and open purses. There are two girls I know who have just the happiest time at Christmas. They are happier than anybody else. These two go about with shining faces, they spend all the money they can get, and put in weeks of time getting ready for Christmas. Their list includes mostly little folks and then their family and friends.

Neither of them ever has a thought of self. Their minds do not take into consideration what others may give them. Their happiness is in spending themselves to make others happy and their own Christmas things they think of not at all. Another source of their happiness is their capacity to just love everything they get whether it is a Christmas card or a grand piano.

To me, Christmas is just a preview of the time when the gospel is preached to all the world and its joy fills the hearts of every creature. Then, when the merry bells ring out, there will be "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among men, in whom He is well pleased."

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LESSON TEXT.—Isa. 9:2-7; 11:1-5.

(2) The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (3) Thou hast

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GOOD NEWS

It was with anxious eyes that the ancients watched the heavens for the coming of the Messiah from on high with succor for those in need. The sun, moon, and stars rolled along while kings and empires crumbled into dust. The race of humans stumbled, filled with greed, hate, and lust.

The anxious eyes were rewarded as the angel of the Lord spoke to the shepherds on the Judean hills, "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

The race of humans is still the victim of greed, hate, and lust. We could easily join in the refrain:

"For hate is strong, and mocks the song,
Of peace on earth, good-will to men."

The mood of many is that of the pessimist. This is a lost cause. There is not anything that can be done. We are helpless.

This could have been the mood of Charles Dickens as he wrote of Scrooge. In his "Christmas Carol" we find Scrooge pictured as a whining, sniveling, squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, inhospitable, covetous old sinner, hard as flint. When we first meet Scrooge, we wonder if he can be redeemed. Is his shell too hard and tight to be penetrated by the Spirit of Christmas? We listen to Marley's ghost and hear Scrooge try to placate him by saying, "Marley, you were always a good business man." The ghost of Marley responds, "Business, mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business; the dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business."

We look at Scrooge and hope against hope that he may be changed. We want better things of human beings than Scrooge has offered us. We want to see his heart softened and made over. At last we find that the Spirit of Christmas has penetrated to the soul of the old miser, bringing power to redeem his past, save his present, and direct his future.

Yes, Scrooge was made over by the Spirit of Christmas. But he is only a creature of literature born of the imagination of Charles Dickens. Did ever a man picture a character that so vividly mirrors the human race of today? Surely the most objectionable adjectives applied to Scrooge could be properly applied to a large part of the human race today.

Is there no hope? Yes, hope abounds. The Spirit of Christmas still hovers about us.

Our task today is clearly marked. We do not have to watch the heavens with anxious eyes for the coming of the Christ as the ancients did, for He is with us. We need only to make sure that we keep Christ in Christmas. This means that we must help the Spirit of Christmas break through the armor of greed, hate, and lust that

" . . . mocks the song,
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

We are robbed of the spirit of Christmas today by placing the emphasis on the material and the secular. Christmas has been

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CHURCH SERVICES

(Announcements of Sunday and weekday church services must be in THE NEWS-TIMES office, either in Beaufort or Morehead City, by NOON WEDNESDAY.—The Editor)

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Morehead City
L. A. Tilley, Minister
Sunday, Dec. 25
9:30 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship. Sermon by the minister
6:30 p.m. - Methodist Youth Fellowship
No Evening Service

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
7:30 a.m. - Young People's choir rehearsal
THURSDAY, DEC. 29
7:30 p.m. - Senior choir rehearsal

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Morehead City
J. Albert Harris, Pastor
Friday, Dec. 23
Sunday School Christmas party at church

SATURDAY, DEC. 24
7:30 p.m. - Choirs meet to go Christmas enrolling and deliver fruit baskets to students

SUNDAY, DEC. 25
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship. Choirs will present the Christmas cantata with other choral work and solos

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Beaufort
W. W. Davis, Pastor
Sunday, Dec. 25
9:35 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship. Sermon, "A Christian Christmas"

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
7:30 p.m. - Mid-week service
8:15 p.m. - Choir rehearsal
THURSDAY, DEC. 29
7:00 p.m. - Meeting of the Young People's auxiliaries

Pageant at Camp Glenn

A Christmas Pageant of the Nativity scene and a candlelight service will be held at the Camp Glenn Methodist church Saturday night, Dec. 24 at 7 p. m. Many of the children of the Sunday School will be in this pageant and all members of the Sunday School are especially invited to attend. The directors are Mrs. Henry Nichols, Mrs. Jesse Lockhart and Mrs. Elmon Oglesby.

MYF to Meet Thursday

The Sub-District MYF will meet at the Newport Methodist church Thursday night, Dec. 29 at 7:30 p. m. The time was changed from Dec. 26 to Dec. 29 and everyone is

ANN STREET METHODIST CHURCH
Beaufort
T. R. Jenkins, Minister
Sunday, Dec. 25
10:00 a.m. - Christmas service. Special music will be presented by the senior choir. James Wheatley will read "The Littlest Angel." You are cordially invited.

FRANKLIN MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
Morehead City
W. D. Caviness, Minister
Sunday, Dec. 25
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Sermon, "The Need for Christmas" by the minister
No Evening Service

MONDAY, DEC. 26
6:00 p.m. - Intermediate MYF
7:30 p.m. - Senior MCF and WSCS
7:30 p.m. - Young Adults meet

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
7:00 p.m. - Choir practice
THURSDAY, DEC. 29
7:30 p.m. - Sub-district MYF meeting at Newport Methodist church

CAMP GLENN METHODIST CHURCH
W. D. Caviness, Minister
Sunday, Dec. 25
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Worship. Sermon by the pastor

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
6:00 p.m. - MYF
7:00 p.m. - WSCS

BROAD CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
Louie Lewis, Acting Minister
Sunday, Dec. 25
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Sermon by Mr. Lewis (Note the change from the night service)

asked to note this change. All Methodist young people of the county are invited.

Fellowship to Give Play

The Young Adult Fellowship of Franklin Memorial Methodist church will produce a Christmas drama entitled "The Other Shepherd" Christmas Eve at 7:30 p. m. The directors are Mrs. Gerald Davis and Mrs. Ulrich Mizelle. Those taking active parts are Lenster Lewis, Gerald Davis, Ulrich Mizelle, D. B. Willis, Mrs. Erlene Pavone, Mrs. Catherine Styron, Mrs. Nettie Mizelle, Mrs. TOLLIE Lee Lewis, Billie Fulcher, and Mrs. Kitty Willis. This is a beautiful drama. The public is invited.

Merry Christmas

Since we cannot shake each one of you by the hand to give you our good wishes personally—we want to take this opportunity to express our hopes that this Christmas and the coming New Year be one of joy and goodness for each and every one of you—our friends and patrons.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

★

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809 Arendell St.—Morehead City

Broadcast Begins Sunday
Franklin Memorial will begin its month of radio broadcasting with the worship service on Sunday morning, Dec. 25. Every member of the church should be present



Dear Friends,
An easy chair, a good pipe and a cheery fire, all do their part in giving you that feeling of contentment that comes with Christmas.
A year's work well done—a job accomplished through your own efforts in helping others—enables you to look forward with satisfaction to a new year.
The staunch, steadfast faith that you have placed in us in the past; the spirit of friendliness that binds us together; makes us grateful, and we hope we have played our part in helping you enjoy to the full all the good things that have come your way.

Thankful for the Goodwill of Our Friends. We Wish You a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
C. H. FREEMAN & SON
Morehead City

LET US REJOICE . . .

at the manifold gifts the Lord has showered upon us. Let us go to His House this Christmas Day and offer our deepest thanks.

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