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CIR SINGS GREETINGS

FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Once more the world is waiting for Christmas! The air is filled with hopes and plans and dreams. We are all happy and eager and joyful.

Christmas is a wonderful time for us in our church, for Christmas belongs to the Church. This is because Christ belongs to the Church! Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ.

What more fitting time could there be, for us to look back gratefully on the things we have accomplished during the year and to plan with hope for another year ahead?

The year ahead should be one of accomplishments for us. There is so much to be done . . . and together we can do it! Team Work can achieve great things . . . especially when we are teaming up for such a wonderful purpose. Work and loyalty and enthusiasm can produce miracles.

So let us be firm in our faith that the year ahead will be a miraculously successful one, and that we will succeed in all the things we strive to do

And now, a Very Merry Christmas to you!

Here is the gay time of Christmas once more. And a strange wistfuliness comes to the fore; It haunts our hearts and invades our reason With the marvels of this magical season. The wistfulness comes to us partially 'Cause we look through the lens of memory. But chiefly because the tramp of small feet Make grown-ups' eyes glow at the sounds so sweet.

Somehow there returns for too short a time The fondest reflections of 'Auld Lang Syne'. Minds that know values of material things Delight with the joy of Spiritual brings. Ears that have been dulled by the din and blare, Are made keen by sounds of songs in the air. Eyes that were blinded by greed for each mite, Open to behold the Heavenly Light.

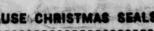
The Magic Season brings back, it is said, The tender grace of a day that is dead. Hardness is banished by nostalgia strong, And the air is filled with sweet angel song. That which time has bent, again becomes straight, A magic hand cleans from memory's slate. Years which Locusts have eaten from our hoard, Are made full again, completely restored.

The Magic Season Toworrow has blest, For ere we attain the Heavenly Rest. Days will come when we walk on leaden feet, And we will sigh for the sound of Voices Sweet. Nights will come when the Bright Star will not glow, The Angel-Song hushed that we long for so. When such time comes, they who the Way have trod, May reach through gloom and grasp the Hand of God.

When we grow faint with Life's hurry and pace, And tire of striving for power and place; When the world leaves us all bruised and torn With a Life so vain, so lost and forlorn; Then comes Christmas, the Season of Magic, And heals the wounds of a Life so tragic. Gone are the scars of the hurts and the pain, And we laugh and sing as children again.

At the Magic Season, our hearts come home From the far country through which we did roam. Where Life's substance we carelessly wasted, And through our portion, aimlessly hasted. Back we come to get the Robe and the Ring-To Father's House—and the glad welcoming. Again are brought kind thoughts to our reason, For it is Christmas: The Magical Season.

-Vernen W. Johnson





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