

## Introduction

Christmas is... not Christmas was.

Christmas is... as present as the air we breathe,  
as current as the events that please or perplex us.

Christmas is... light.

More than the light from a new star...  
it's the light of God's eternal love  
shining through the midnight of man's despair,  
proving that He believed in man.

Christmas is... giving.

Not of wise men to God,  
but of God to men who would be  
wise enough to receive the gift of His Son.

Christmas is ...joy.

Not just because man heard a new song,  
but because God wrote it and had it sung.

Christmas is ... the angel saying, "... to all people."

And that means everybody ...  
everywhere...  
and that includes you!

The Wonder of Christmas Is ...

# MUSIC



If the words tell us how to believe,  
then the music tells us how to feel.

## FOURTEEN WORDS

*A*s the bright copper penny of the sun slid down into the blue velvet pocket of night, nothing was changed. It had been a day like all the rest. Another 24-hour carbon copy etched in despair and outlined with discouragement. It was an unhappy, suspicious, fearful, needy world into which Jesus came.

A world of moral degradation,  
low ethical standards,  
and bitter hatred.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Government oppression was intolerable.  
Taxes were rising at such alarming rates  
that personal needs could scarcely be met.  
Religious vitality was at an all-time low.

People had lost purpose ...  
and hope...  
and faith.

Still sounds familiar, doesn't it?

The darkness of that night was matched only by the gloom of the spirit that pervaded the countryside.

But God surprised the world with a simple song...

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,  
AND ON EARTH PEACE,  
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

Fourteen words... that's all... just 14 words! Complex enough to keep theologians and philosophers pondering for twenty centuries, yet simple enough for a child to understand.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,  
AND ON EARTH PEACE,  
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

A song sent from heaven, brought by angels to touch the hurting heart of man. And even today, if you listen carefully, you can still hear the angels sing.

