

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Pastor Steve 12/24/17

I had the privilege of hearing Pastor Doug McKinney (my brother-in-law) preach last Sunday while visiting Christ's Church in Bowling Green, Ohio. In his message, he suggested that the Christmas Story could've been a musical.

I had not thought about that before, but he had a point. Consider Luke's account for a few moments...

Mary burst into song when she visited Elizabeth shortly after she had been visited by an angel announcing God's plan for her to bear the Christ child. (Luke 1:46-55)

Zechariah sang a song when his son John, the forerunner to the Messiah was born. (Luke 1:67-79)

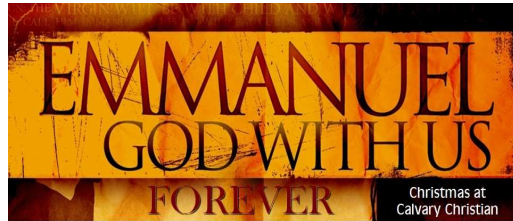
A choir of angels heralded Jesus' birth to lowly shepherds as they watched over their flocks. (Luke 2:13)

Simeon joined the chorus when the baby Jesus was later brought to the temple. (Luke 2:28-32)

A lot of singing going on, for sure. What's with these people? To put it bluntly, "God is." After all, remember that "Emmanuel" means "God with us" - and that realization will give anyone a reason to sing.

Now, consider some of the lyrics of their songs...

Mary sang: *"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me -- holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation."*



Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, sang out: *"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and He has redeemed His people."*

The heavenly host praised God saying, *"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men on whom His favor rests."*

Simeon was moved by the Spirit to sing: *"Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel."*

Did you catch all of that? We have a merciful Savior and a mighty Redeemer who brings peace and light to all who will receive Him.

If that doesn't put a song in your heart, I don't know what will.

So this morning, I urge you to embrace Emmanuel. May the joy of a relationship with God in Christ Jesus brighten your Christmas and fill you with hope for the New Year.

We truly have something to sing about - for "God is with us!"

