



Adoration for Our Savior: Celebrating the True Spirit of Christmas



David Wollen
PRESIDENT & HOST

O come, let us adore Him...

They're familiar words for Christians and non-Christians alike. They're seared into our modern culture, along with the lyrics from dozens of other Christmas carols. Even secular recording artists, who would otherwise have

nothing to do with Jesus, will gladly sing about Him on their holiday albums.

How many people ever stop and think about the meaning of the words they're singing in these familiar Christmas songs? Do they ever wonder why they are so

“I want more of the Lord Jesus Christ in every way my family and I celebrate Christmas.”

deeply moved by music about a baby in a manger?

How I long for more of the world to truly see and behold the grandeur of Christ! And for that matter, I long for more of that very thing in my own life. I want more of the Lord Jesus Christ in every way my family and I celebrate Christmas.

But the competition for our attention is fierce, isn't it? Every year brings countless new Christmas movies and TV specials. Embedded into the plot of nearly every one is the question: *What's Christmas really all about?* The answers provided range from "giving to others" to "being with those you love." But how many times do you hear the name of Jesus spoken? I think I can count them on one hand, which is all the more reason for us to keep returning to these familiar words at Christmas.

*O come, let us **adore** Him!*

"Adore" is a worship word. And when you give voice to your adoration, it's called praise. So the call to "come" and "adore Him" is really a call to worship and praise Jesus! That's what Christmas is really about. Worship. And, by the way, worship is also God's will for all the nations of the world.

"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."
(Isaiah 61:11, NIV)

As John Piper famously wrote, "Missions exists because worship doesn't." God's will is for all the nations of the world to come and adore the Lord Jesus. But that's not happening, is it? Not fully. There is a long, long way to go.

About one-third of the world's population is unreached. The most

accurate statistic we have is an estimate: 3.2 billion people have never heard the Gospel, met a Christian, and, in many cases, never heard the name of Jesus.

*O come, let **us** adore **Him!***

It's a call to worship and a call to missions.

And it's also at the heart of Haven's mission: We exist to engage and encourage people to behold and follow Jesus Christ.

As Haven Ministries wraps up our 90th anniversary year—especially during this Christmas season—I want to reaffirm the commitment I made in January when I went on the air as Haven's new host. The mission of Haven is not changing. We're keeping it all about Jesus and will keep inviting our listeners to respond to this call to worship.

*O come, let us adore **Him!***



*A call to worship
A call to missions*

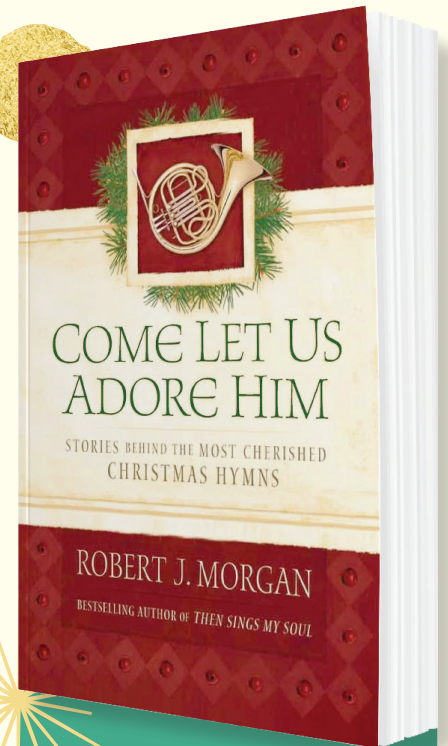


THE STORIES BEHIND **Your Favorite Christmas Hymns**

Classic Christmas hymns like *Joy to the World*, *Silent Night*, and *The First Noel* have a way of ushering in the Christmas season. While the verses and melodies are familiar, the story behind each hymn is a treasure that often gets overlooked. **Come Let Us Adore Him** pairs 30 of the best-loved Christmas hymns with their fascinating backstories—each of them unique and honoring to the Lord.

These devotional-style chapters are based on historical findings about these great hymns and their writers and composers, alongside other fascinating nuggets that point us to Jesus.

Designed to be personally reflective, these stories speak to your soul and add depth and meaning as you worship the Lord this Christmas season.



The book also **includes a 20-song CD collection** of Christmas hymns performed by the Haven Quartet.



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Tell Me the Story of Jesus



Danny Rojas
DIRECTOR & HOST
OF EL FARO DE REDENCIÓN

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For many people, the story of the birth of the Savior can get lost in the busyness of buying gifts, decorating the home, and planning Christmas dinner. Christmas movies and TV specials point to everything but Jesus. Even Nativity scenes can become distractions, as we focus on the events without reflecting on their connection to God's great story. But for me, Christmas is a time for remembering and proclaiming the wonderful message of the Gospel, displayed in the incarnation of God the Son, as the Word became flesh and dwelt among us to bring us to Himself through His life, death, and resurrection.

The most important way that we can worship Jesus, whether it is at Christmas or any day of the year, is by faithfully proclaiming His story. Fanny Crosby's hymn, *Tell Me the Story of Jesus*, expresses this so beautifully, and it begins with the Christmas story:

*Tell me the story of Jesus,
write on my heart every word;
tell me the story most precious,
sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels, in chorus,
sang as they welcomed His
birth, "Glory to God in the
highest! Peace and good tidings
to earth."*

This is one of my mother's favorite hymns. We always sang it in Spanish, of course! The story of Christmas is the good news of redemption through the gift of Jesus, the faithfulness of God in sending His son to fulfill promises made to Adam and Eve, Abraham, Israel, and David, the promises given through the prophets, that all the world would be blessed by the One who would come to bring fallen men back to Him. This is the story of all the Bible, and telling that story is the most powerful way to worship Jesus.

This passion for glorifying Jesus through the proclamation of the Gospel is what drives the ministry of Haven, sharing the story that

is all about Jesus, and it drives the ministry of El Faro de Redención.

Every day, we share that story with our listeners as we teach the Bible, hear testimonies of God's work among the people of Cuba, and point believers and unbelievers to Jesus, who is our only comfort, our only hope in life and in death. When we visit Cuba and meet with our listeners or train pastors in Christ-centered preaching, we worship Jesus by lifting Him up as who He truly is: Savior and Lord, given for us for the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

So let me encourage you to worship Jesus this Christmas. As you participate in the festivities, remember to lift your heart in gratitude to the One who was born of a virgin, who was proclaimed by angels and worshiped by shepherds, the one who grew up to give His life for you that you might have life through Him.

A Season of Light

Reflections of Christ's Presence this Christmas



Charles Morris
HOST EMERITUS

As December rolls in, this usually means longer nights and cooler temperatures. For some, especially during the holidays, this season can feel heavier with loneliness and despair. As the December solstice approaches, the North Pole tilts away from the sun, giving us the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. But this annual event also serves as a poignant reminder of the hope we have in Christ.

In the midst of this season, I'm reminded of Peter's words: "...you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9b, NIV).

Each year, as I grow older, I feel the weight of my body's limitations and miss having my East Coast and West Coast children and grandchildren together by my side. The world around me seems increasingly darker. Once more I return to the Apostle Paul speaking this great theme to me in 2 Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made

his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

This season, I find that I need more than the Star of Bethlehem shining over a manger. I need more of Jesus—my Savior who is not only the narrow gate but also the door of sacrifice that leads to new life. He stands at the door of our lives, ready to enter more fully into our December and beyond. This is what I need each day and every year. And it's what I hope to share with those who have yet to know Him as their Savior and Lord.

So again this year, Janet and I return to the fifth Gospel, the book of Isaiah. It's more than a collection of prophecies; it's a testament to the birth of our Messiah, Immanuel—God with us. We will sing with vigor the carols of Christmas, enjoy the fellowship we need with fellow believers, and catch up with family through phone and FaceTime. As

Passages to Ponder Pointing to Jesus in Isaiah

Isaiah 7:14
Isaiah 9:1–7
Isaiah 30
Isaiah 40
Isaiah 44
Isaiah 49
Isaiah 53–54
Isaiah 55
Isaiah 64

we read and pray through Isaiah, we seek to highlight passages that illuminate the light of Christ, King of Glory. We need Him more and more each day.

This Christmas. May the joy of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection shine brightly into our lives.

7 Smart and Savvy Tips For Year-End Giving

Tax-Wise Ways to Maximize Your Impact

Are you considering making a year-end gift to Haven Ministries?

Here are seven tax-wise tips to ensure your gifts are made properly and in the most tax-effective manner.

1 —————

GIVE TAX-FREE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR IRA

If you are age 70 ½ or older, gifts from your IRA are one of the smartest, tax-wise ways you can support the mission of Haven! Not only do these gifts satisfy your required minimum distribution, but they also reduce your taxable income.

2 —————

GIFTS OF STOCK OR PROPERTY TO REDUCE TAXES

By giving appreciated assets (such as stock, real estate, business interests, or commodities) directly to Haven Ministries, you'll receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of the gift AND bypass the capital gains—whether or not you choose to itemize!

3 —————

RESEARCH YOUR EMPLOYER'S MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Many employers offer matching gift programs as part of their philanthropic efforts. For every dollar given, the corporation will make a matching contribution, in some cases on a 2-for-1 basis.

4 —————

STREAMLINE YOUR GIVING

If you support several ministries, you may be able to simplify and streamline your giving by setting up a Stewards Fund (donor-advised fund) account through a ministry organization we partner with called Barnabas Foundation. Like a "charitable giving account," you can give cash and appreciated assets into a single fund and then choose when and how to recommend grants to Haven Ministries.

5 TIMING IS EVERYTHING

To receive a deduction on this year's taxes...

- Gifts of cash must be made online or mailed in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31.
- Gifts of non-cash assets (such as appreciated stock, real estate, business interests, and commodities) must be transferred by December 31.
- Any check you write from your IRA account must be received AND PROCESSED by December 31 in order to count toward your required minimum distribution. Unlike other checks (including those sent directly from your IRA administrator) it is NOT enough that personal IRA checks are postmarked by December 31.
- Gifts made into a donor-advised fund (such as the Stewards Fund) must be transferred into the account by December 31. You can decide later how to recommend these funds be distributed.



6 BEAT THE YEAR-END RUSH

December is incredibly busy—not only for you, but also for the post office, your financial advisors, and for us. Whenever possible, build in extra margin for your gifts to be given, received, and processed by December 31. Also, err on the side of over-communication. Call ahead for the smooth transfer of stock or other appreciated assets. Alert us when writing a check from your IRA account (timing on these are critical!) so we can ensure your gift is processed immediately.

7 COLLABORATE WITH THE TRUSTED EXPERTS


Not sure what giving options are best for you? Through Haven's partnership with Barnabas Foundation, you have complimentary access to trusted planning support, all from a Christian perspective. A planner will answer your questions with clear, easy-to-understand information so you can identify the best giving solutions to achieve your personal and charitable goals.

This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Consult your financial advisor and legal counsel for information and advice specific to your situation.

READY TO LEARN MORE?

We'd love to help you identify smart and powerful giving solutions that fit your goals and situation.

CONTACT JOEY LOPEZ

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Rewatch our Live
Zoom Celebration!

With special guest **Joni Eareckson Tada!**



All About Jesus
for 90 years!



Haven's 90th Anniversary HIGHLIGHT

Did you know that Haven Ministries is celebrating 90 incredible years of ministry? If you missed our live 90th anniversary celebration, you can watch it by scanning the QR code to the right.

Haven Ministries President and Host **David Wollen**, along with **Charles Morris**, **Joni Eareckson Tada**, and other special guests, reminisced about Haven's 90 years of Gospel ministry, all while looking ahead to what the Lord has in store for years to come. Join us for a time of memories, worship, and prayer on Haven's 90th Anniversary digital event.



Scan the above QR code
to rewatch our 90th
anniversary celebration