



The Long Night is PAST

The Christmas story of Us

The Long Night is Past reminds us that God's story of redemption is yet unfinished. Beginning with Christ's miraculous human birth and taking us through to his promised triumphant return, it is the story of us because, while we celebrate the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, we yet long for an ultimate redemption, when he returns, from a world still full of sadness and pain. The Comforter is coming and the Comforter has come.

The Lord Almighty Reigns Part 1

As we begin our story, the world is in darkness and the nation of Israel is longing for a promised Messiah; a savior, born of the line of King David, who would not only redeem his kinsmen, but through whom all nations would be blessed. The night has been long, but dawn is coming.

Long Expected Jesus

Emmanuel means "God with us". The longing that churned in the hearts of the people of Israel for the coming of Emmanuel echoes in our hearts today as we ache for his return. We cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Hope of the World

Christ is born! A light has come into the darkness in the form of a babe, yet that same light will come again, in the form of a king that will vanquish darkness forever. We are redeemed yet we wait for the full joy of redemption.

The Long Long Night

The journey by night of the wise men as they follow a star, then by Joseph as he flees to Egypt to protect Jesus and Mary, foreshadow the longest of all nights, the night before Jesus' crucifixion, when he would pray in a garden with such angst that sweat like drops of blood would fall over the cup he was about to drink in order to bring rescue to us once and for all.

Prepare the Way

As Jesus, now in his thirtieth year of life, begins his public ministry of teaching, healing and performing miracles, John the Baptist is heralding his coming in Judea, baptizing many. When he sees Jesus coming, he says "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Lay Down Straight

No struggle, no resistance. Only humble submissiveness from Jesus, son of God as he lay down his life willingly to brutality, humiliation, and to death for the sake of our souls. He surrendered to pain so that we would be saved.

Lamb of God

The tender lamb was pierced for our offenses. He was crushed for our iniquities. Our peace was bought with his suffering. His wounds are what heal us.

This is the Christ

The One we call Christ is the One who defeated death itself. He is victorious and one day, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. The One who lay down straight, is the One who will charge the darkness and overcome it forever.

O Spread the Tidings Round

The Comforter has come! And we each carry in us the Holy Spirit, a treasure in jars of clay. What good news, what comfort. We are not alone as we await the return of the King.

I Heard the Bells

God is not dead. He does not sleep. Righteousness is coming. An end to all tears, mourning and death is coming. Jesus is coming. Hear the bells ringing loudly. He is coming.

Tempus Adest Floridum / The Story of Us

The melody we know today as 'Good King Wenceslas' was published in 1582 as a springtime carol called Tempus Adest Floridum, which means "A time is near for blooming". We can sense that the night is darkest just before the dawn. The Winter is coldest just before the Spring. The world feels most hopeless just before the return. This is our place in God's story.

The Lord Almighty Reigns Part 2 / Joy to the World

The day is finally here and Jesus has returned to vanquish death forever and destroy the evil one. Hallelujah! God is with us now forever! The long night is past. Joy to the world!

