

Reparation for Vvornship

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

The evergreen singing aloud its poem of constant renewal,
The festive mood spread liltng magic everywhere,
The gifts of recollection calling to heart the graces of life,
The star in the sky calling to mind the wisdom of hope,
The warmth of candlelight glowing against the darkness,
The birth of a child linking past to future,
The symbol of love absorbing all violence.

Prelude

Laura Wind

Away in a Manger

arranged by Mark Hayes

Lighting the Advent Candle

When we light the candle of Hope,
we embrace God's presence among us, yesterday and today and always.
Whatever we face in life, we will put our hope in God.

When we light the candle of Peace,
we breathe in the One who restores us.
Whatever we face in life, God's Spirit of peace will dwell within us.

When we light the candle of Joy,
we celebrate the One who has come, is coming and will come again.
Whatever we face in life, God will make joy possible.

When we light the candle of Love,
we stop in awe of God's unending love.
Whatever we face in life, God's steadfast love surrounds us.

When we light the Christ candle, we remember the star above the stable.
We celebrate the light coming into the darkness.
Glory to God in the highest! We give thanks for the brilliance of stars! We give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ, God with us.

Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge of show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;

***The self-sufficient, the proud,
those who, because they have
everything, look down on others,
those who have no need
even of God- for them there
will be no Christmas.
Only the poor, the hungry,
those who need someone
to come on their behalf,
will have that someone.
That someone is God.
Emmanuel. God-with-us.
Without poverty of spirit
there can be no abundance of God.***

The Christmas Story

The Prophet

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUI

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.***

The Christmas Story

The Holy Famil

Carol

Once in Royal David's City

IRB

***Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.***

The Christmas Story

The Manger

Carol

Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

*Silent night, holy night. shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.*

Reading

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Carol

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

Supplies needed:

- The printout of the ornament pieces that you will be coloring—we recommend printing them out onto thick card stock paper if you can.
- A pair of scissors
- Tape and a glue stick
- Coloring pencils/crayons/markers
- Baker's twine/string/thread

Steps:

1. We recommend having your child/children color and decorate the ornament pieces first. If you have more than one child, you may want to print out a set for each child to make their own ornament set.
2. Once the ornament pieces have been colored and decorated, cut along the dotted line around each of the ornament pieces.
3. Fold each piece down the middle.
4. Use small rolls of tape or glue to adhere the inside halves of two of the ornament pieces, making sure they match evenly.
5. With the string, create a long loop, then glue or tape the bottom parts of the string into the center of the two pieces. Knot the loop at the top of the ornament.
6. Glue or tape the third ornament piece to the inside of the other blank halves.

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