

Songs of the Season

One way to prepare for the Christmas season is to gather friends and family together to sing traditional Christmas Carols. It's unfortunate that many children do not know the words to these songs, but if you ask them to sing "Jingle Bells" or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" they are more than ready to sing these songs at the top of their lungs. It takes some practicing, but soon the children be able to add traditional carols to their repertoire. In fact, this is a great activity to do while driving along in the car. Just pop in a traditional Christmas song CD with children's voices and you have a captive audience. It doesn't matter how well you or they sing, the point is to have fun. Remember...when you sing, you pray twice!

The custom of singing carols at Christmas is of English origin. During the middle ages, groups of serenaders called "waits" would travel around from house to house singing ancient carols and spreading the holiday spirit. The word carol means "song of you." Most of the popular old carols we sing today were written in the nineteenth century.

These carols carry a special message for us all. To touch the real Christmas- to feel the true spirit of the season, we have to look at our own heart and find all the secret treasures that are there to give. So, I'd like to suggest that during the Christmas season, we focus on these steps of Christmas as we sing along.

The Steps of Christmas

1. **HONESTY**...He rules the world with truth and grace...**JOY TO THE WORLD**
2. **SEEKING**...Three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent...
THE FIRST NOEL
3. **PERSEVERANCE**...O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel...
O COME, O COME EMMANUEL
4. **GLORY**...angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains...**ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**
5. **FAITH**...O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant...**O COME, ALL YE FAIHFUL**
6. **PEACE** bless all the dear children in thy tender care...**SILENT NIGHT**
7. **LOVE**...how silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given...**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**
8. **HOPE**...be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay...**AWAY IN A MANGER**
9. **RENEWAL**... the King of kings, salvation brings...**WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**
10. **GOODWILL**...peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled...
HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING
11. **HUMILITY**...down in a lowly manger, our humble Christ was born...
GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
12. **WONDER**...O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright...**WE THREE KINGS**
13. **JOY**...good Christian men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice...
GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

A child of Christmas doesn't have to be a toddler or a teen. A child of Christmas is anyone who believes that kings have birthdays. Children of Christmas are givers. That's what the day is for. They give thanks, love, gratitude, joy, and themselves to one another.

During this holiday season, follow these steps of Christmas. Practice these principles not only during this most holy period, but throughout the year. Then, you too, can be a "joy-full" child of Christmas.