



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11



Have you ever taken peaceful moments for granted and missed them while they happened, but remember them with vividness? Some are moments that you would love to go back to and relish in them. I would love to go back to moments of peacefulness, like sitting on a rock bluff while hunting with my dad, brother, and grandpa in South Pine Creek. There are other peaceful moments that I've caught while they happened, like when I sat on the shore of a lake in the Siberian wilderness where I had committed my life to serving the Lord. Another moment of peace came when on a cold winter night my son and I went sledding under low hanging clouds that glowed from the town lights. It was still and quiet. All you could hear was the joy coming from my son as he plunged down the hill. All that mattered was the moment and the joy of thanking God for being a father.

Last Christmas Eve, I remember the peace of singing “Silent Night, Holy Night” during a candlelit service. It was a moment of reflection on the one important thing as we remembered Christ's birth. It was a sigh of relief and a break in the long-suffering and weariness of the year.

The lyrics to the song “Silent Night, Holy Night” were written by a young priest named Joseph Mohr 202 years ago in 1818. They were written after such moments of peace.

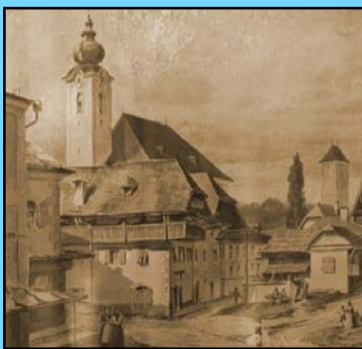
As the story goes, Joseph Mohr went for a walk at night in the village of Oberndorf, Austria. He looked out over a very quiet, winter-laden town. He was inspired and the town was at peace. It took place not long after the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the great tolls it had taken throughout all of Europe. Then too, was a time following uncertainty, grief, and weariness. Peace was needed, wanted, and desired.

Later, Franz Xaver Gruber would help put the melody to it and in turn it has become one of the most timeless songs with simple truth calling us to reflect on Christ's advent.

So, we find ourselves here in the beginning of the advent season of 2020. Despite all the challenges that we have faced, it

is now the season of hope. The virus that has brought so much change will pass. The political fire that has engulfed nations, communities, and even churches will subside. Of all the things that have failed us, now is the time to look to Christ, who has never failed us. His perfect sacrifice on the cross covers our depravity with his blood. Through faith alone, we are saved. The gift of the child in the manger is the beginning to the redemption of our souls.

From all of us at CBC, we pray that you can look beyond the temporary and give thanks for the eternal. May that alone be reason for joy this year.



**Oberndorf, Austria**

What it would have looked like in 1818.



Joseph Mohr. The young priest who wrote the lyrics to “Silent Night, Holy Night.”

Franz Xaver Gruber. The man who put melody to the song.



“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

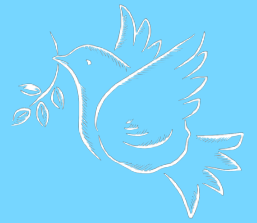
**For further reflection:** cf. Isaiah 11:10, 9:6, 4:6; Colossians 1:15, 2:9&10; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:4&5; John 3:16; Matt 16:16.



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## Christmas Newsletter



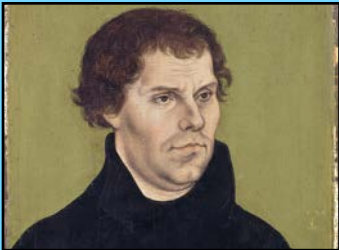
**Above: The hand written manuscript of the music was found in 1994 in Mohr's handwriting, which also named Gruber as the composer.**

Even if you're at home this Christmas, I would encourage you to sing "Silent Night, Holy Night" together as a family.

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
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 Al-le-lu-ia!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, oh, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth



### Martin Luther

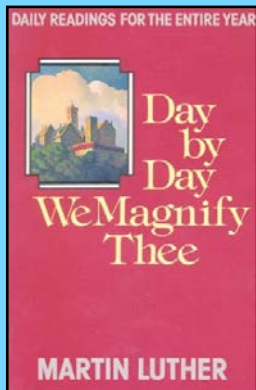


Below is an excerpt from one of my favorite devotionals. It is titled "Day by Day We Magnify Thee". They are readings from Martin Luther. I would highly recommend the book as a devotional to add to your reading in the coming new year. May it be something that helps you see the reason for the season of Advent.

#### "The Coming of The Lord"

Sunday: Matthew 21:1-9

**"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."**  
Zechariah 9:9



Yea, of a truth, He will be a king, but a poor and wretched king who has in no way the appearance of a king if He is judged and esteemed by outward might and slender, in which worldly kings and princes like to array themselves.

He leaves to other kings such things as pomp, castles, palaces, gold, and wealth; and He lets them eat and drink, dress and build more daintily than other folks; but the craft which Christ the poor beggar-king knows, they do not know. He helps not against one sin only, but against all my sin; and not against my sin only, but against the whole world's sin. He comes to take away not sickness only, but death, This, saith the Prophet, tell the daughter of Zion, that she be not offended at His mean advent; but shut thine eyes and open thine ears, and perceive not how He rides there so beggarly, but hearken to what is said and preached about this poor king. His wretchedness and poverty are manifest, for He comes riding on an ass like a beggar having neither saddle nor spurs. But that He will take from us sin, strangle death, endow us with eternal holiness, eternal bliss, and eternal life, this cannot be seen. Wherefore thou must hear and believe.

Sermon for the first Sunday in Advent, 1533.

W.A. 37. 201 f.

**"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life."**

John 3:16

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