

THE *Miracle*
OF
Christmas
WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY

NARRATION

by Lisa Parker

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(music begins for "Noel" with "The First Noel")

Narrator 1: Arise! Shine! The light has come! Isaiah foresaw the deliverance of God and rejoiced.

Narrator 2: The Light that created every star is born to us—the Wonderful Counselor ...

Narrator 1: the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, ...

Narrator 2: the Prince of peace! Let all creation sing! The Lord has come!

SONG : "Noel" *with* "The First Noel"

Narrator 1: There are scores of people through the ages who willingly laid down their lives for others in incredible acts of selfless love.

(music begins for "O Love Divine")

Narrator 2: But only Jesus lived as we live, yet without sin ...

Narrator 1: and died as only He could, to give us life—a *free* gift offered at the greatest cost.

Narrator 2: Only Jesus is pure love, divine love—our only hope for this life and all eternity ... only Jesus.

SONG: "O Love Divine"

SONG: "Hope Was Born This Night"

Narrator 2: What do we do with this hope ... this victory? In a world full of trouble, how do we find the peace that passes all understanding?

Narrator 1: We run to the Lord. We take shelter under His wings, and we sing.

Narrator 2: The shepherd-king David tells us: Let all who take refuge in you rejoice. Let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them so they can exult in You. (*Psalm 5:11, paraphrased*)

(music begins for "I Love the Lord" with "Total Praise")

Narrator 2: *(continues)* Sing in the shadows. Sing in the midst of trouble.

Narrator 1: Sing His praise, even in the dark ... especially in the dark. Make the Lord your song.

SONG: "I Love the Lord" *with* "Total Praise"

Narrator 1: Why do we make so much of Christmas? Because it did not come from us. It came from outside humanity, from the One who made it all, yet amazingly knows us, understands us, and gave us the first, best gift. The reason for Christmas? God so loved the world.

Narrator 2: The gift of Christmas? His only Son.

Narrator 1: The hope of Christmas? Everlasting life.

Narrator 2: The miracle of Christmas? It is all for you!

(music begins for "Glorious Wonder")

Narrator 1: Unto you is born this day a Savior ... Christ the Lord!
Spread the news!

SONG: "Glorious Wonder"

Narrator 2: In 1719, Isaac Watts wrote a book of poems based on the Psalms. His adaptation of Psalm 98 was not written as a song, much less a Christmas carol; however, "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" has become one of our best-loved hymns.

Narrator 1: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King!" Watts understood Psalm 98 as a celebration of Jesus, the King of kings.

Narrator 2: "Let every heart prepare Him room" ... especially at Christmas.

Narrator 1: "And heaven and nature sing" ... Psalm 98 says: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, let the sea resound ... let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy ... let the world and all who live in it burst into song!

SONG: "All Creation Sing (Joy to the World)"

Narrator 2: There are accounts throughout the Bible of God giving signs to reassure us that He keeps His promises.

Narrator 1: He placed a sign in the sky: a promise that the earth will never again be destroyed by floods.

Narrator 2: During their wilderness journey, God gave the Israelites signs of His presence: a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Narrator 1: There are signs that changed lives: Abraham, your descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky.

Narrator 2: Signs that pointed the way: Where is He that is born King of the Jews? We have seen His star and have come to worship Him.

Narrator 1: Signs for the least of the least: This will be a sign to you: you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Narrator 2: And there are signs today: God's promise that those who seek will find, and those who knock will have the door opened to them.

(music begins for "Star of Promise")

Narrator 1: Look up! Have you seen His star of wonder? The star of promise? The star God placed for you?

SONG: "Star of Promise"

Narrator 2: At the end of the day, what do we do with Christmas? Parties and gifts, trees and lights may lift our spirits, but Christmas calls for more. Many of us sense this and make the season a time for service, kindness, giving to others ... and so we should. But there is something else, something even a child can do ...

Narrator 1: to honor the Lord of hosts, the God who sent His only Son to die on a cross for us; the God who answers prayer and heals our hearts and knows our pain; the God who promises that neither life nor death, nor angels nor principalities, not height nor depth, nor anything else in creation can separate us from His love.

(music begins for "What Can I Give Him?")

Narrator 2: How do we honor this great God? What could we possibly give Him? Our best and only gift—our hearts.

Narrator 1: And that, my friends, is the miracle of Christmas.