



A Community of faith, led by God's spirit, offering Christ to the World

The Full Story Told In a Song

December 25, 2022

I really do love the amazing opportunity to continue to hear the story of Christmas through the music of the season. It does not matter if it is a hymn or a crazy song like Grandma Got Ran Over By a Reindeer, they all tell a story that helps us to get into some type of Christmas spirit. Throughout the years, I have been able to receive emails or books that tell about the how the songs of Christmas tell a story.

So as I think through the fact that Christmas is vastly approaching us this week, I wanted to share with you one of my favorite songs that someone sent the meaning behind the words. It truly caused me to see the song in a brand new light, and it allows me to receive the message of the song in an amazing new way. The name of the song, The Twelve Days of Christmas. The "12 Days of Christmas" referenced in the carol reference the 12 days following Christmas, also known as Twelvetide in Christianity. The period begins with the birth of Christ on December 25th and ends with the coming of the Three Wise Men on January 6th, also known as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day.

Though some scholars believe that the song is French in origin, the first printed appearance of the song was in the English children's book Mirth With-out Mischief. If you haven't heard of it, that's probably because it was published in 1780. Regardless, there are many who wonder if the lyrics have a hidden Christian meaning to resonate beyond time and space. There is no true proof if they do or don't, but here is what I have found the lyrics to mean:

- * The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.
- * The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles.
- * The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.
- * The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control) Galatians 5:22-23
- * The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes. Matthew 5:1-10
- * The 7 Swans A-swimming are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading and Mercy).
- * The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.
- * The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament-Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy).
- * The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists. (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John)
- * The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues.
- * The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.
- * The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.

I know that this may or may not be the true meaning behind the words to this iconic Christmas song, but in my heart, it helps me to remember the true reason we celebrate Christmas. As we welcome the LIGHT into the world once again this week, may we forever carry the doctrinal beliefs of our faith found all throughout God's Holy Word.

Merry Christmas,
Jason



OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26th, Tuesday Dec. 27th & Thursday, Dec. 29th. We will be **open** Wednesday Dec. 28th.

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of our **Sunday School Teachers: Cindy Autry, Mike Stevens, Dom Edwards & Hallie Taylor** by Genesis Sunday School Class

BACKPACKS OF GRACE

January is Backpacks of Grace month at Wynnton! Backpacks of Grace is a ministry of our church through which we provide weekend food for selected students at our Partner in Education school, Wynnton Arts Academy. Each Thursday morning, volunteers pack bags that are distributed at the school on Friday. We purchase basic items from Feeding the Valley at low costs.

Supplemental items are purchased at retail food stores. If you wish to donate, please choose items from the list below. They must be packaged in **INDIVIDUAL SERVING** containers. Also, **NO PEANUTS** can be in the product or in the manufacturing process (see "Contains" label on packages). Collection bins are in the Fellowship Hall and the hallway outside the Library. Items which are helpful are:

- Individual macaroni and cheese cups
- Individual snacks (cookies, crackers, etc.)
- Individual breakfast food (cereal, oatmeal, grits, etc.)
- Individual fruit cups (diced fruit, applesauce, etc.)

Financial donations may be made through the church office.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

Our Christmas traditions are a beautiful way to connect and inspire us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. One of my favorite traditions is joining together on Christmas Eve to sing the lyrical and reverent hymn *Silent Night*. As we close our service with this beloved Christmas hymn, each person receives the light of Christ and passes it on. It is profound to see the Christ Light illuminating the faces of our members as we receive the Light. The story of the origin of *Silent Night* is as beautiful as the hymn itself.

Originally titled "Stille Nacht," the song was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 in Oberndorf, Austria at the St. Nicholas parish church. In 1817, a young priest, Father Joseph Mohr, had come to the area. The year prior, in 1816, Mohr had written the poem "Stille Nacht." As the young priest walked through a silent town one Christmas night, he was inspired to write "Stille Nacht" as he looked out at the peace and beauty of a winter-laden town. On December 24th, 1818, Father Joseph Mohr asked his colleague Franz Gruber, the parish organist, to set his Christmas poem to music. Mohr and Gruber would sing the melody, the choir would join in and the accompaniment would be for solo guitar played by Mohr himself. It is believed by many that the piece was originally played on guitar because the parish organ was not working on that Christmas Eve. Years later organist Franz Gruber describes the result of their musical collaboration; "On the very same evening, I fulfilled the musical curate's request and the simple composition was performed on the holy night to the acclaim of everyone." *Silent Night* was born.

Wynnton Neighborhood Network

New holiday cards \$5.00 each
see Randy Autry or Suzanne Supple
All proceeds go to the needy.

- *Youth CORE Groups Resume January 8th
- *Youth Prayer Breakfast & Jesus Resumes January 13th
- *Youth Parents Meeting - January 29th @ 5pm
- *Youth Winter Retreat - February 17th - 20th
- *Youth Information: Text @basement22 to 81010
- *Youth Parents Info: Text @wumcpa to 81010



Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through age 3 is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for Pre-K-5th Grade is on the first floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday School is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children in Pre-K through 4th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the Grimes Building on the first floor in the Children's Church room next to the nursery.

BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of January. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.

UPCOMING ADULT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Come help us make cards for our homebound members Wednesday, January 18th, from 11:30 to 1:30. A light lunch will be provided.

We will be having a planning meeting for adult ministry events on January 19th at 12:00 p.m. Please plan on bringing your lunch and ideas for adult ministry activities.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Advent Readings 3

December 25-31
Matthew 1:1-23

This week we will be reading about Joseph. Too often we overlook the importance of Joseph in the Christmas story, but he played an important role in the childhood of Jesus. Joseph was betrothed to Mary. That's when he found out that his soon-to-be wife was pregnant. Betrothal is different than the engagement we would think of. If he wanted to break his engagement, then it would be much closer to a divorce. So, Joseph intended to quietly divorce Mary to save her any embarrassment. That is when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. Joseph decided to take the role of father for Jesus, and he decided to care for both Jesus and Mary. Joseph helped Mary raise the Christ child so he could save the world.

Epiphany Readings: January 1-7
Luke 2:1-12

This week we will be reading about the Magi. Sunday, January 8th, we will be celebrating Epiphany Sunday. It is a time to remember the visit of the Magi, and the significance of the knowledge of the birth of Jesus to all the world, not just the Jewish people. The Magi came from a different land, and because of their cultural differences and status, were thought of as kings. They studied the heavens and the prophecies of the past. Because of this, they noticed the difference in the star that lit up over Bethlehem. They were of a different culture, they had a different set of beliefs, but they knew that when even the stars bowed to the birth of that child, He would grow up to change the world.

2022 END OF YEAR GIVING

Please be sure to send your end of year contributions before December 31. Submissions postmarked after Dec. 31 cannot be counted for 2022. Also, gifts of stock and online payments must clear by Dec. 31. Thanks for helping us meet our budget needs!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our Finance Committee has designated our Christmas offering to go to the Wynnton Neighborhood Network. You may make your gift anytime in December in a worship service or by mailing it to the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 27 Gloria Willett
- 28 Bryce Richey
- 29 Chris Lipp
- 30 Chandler Miller
- 31 Gloria Garrett

OUR STEWARDSHIP

12-18-22

General Fund.....	13,311.00
Christmas.....	750.00
Missions.....	50.00
Other Contributions.....	16.00
Sunday School.....	42.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Network.....	760.00

OUR ATTENDANCE

12-18-22

Early Morning Service.....	37
Morning Service.....	153
Sunday School.....	81

WYNNTON ARTS ACADEMY NEEDS

Our church was able to serve 23 students through the Adopt-A-Family project. Thank you all so much for your generosity. This year there were individuals who “adopted” students in addition to the Sunday School classes!

In January and February, WAA is asking for donations of **gloves and socks**. The cold winter is approaching, if not here, and many students are in need of these items. Please drop your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall to be delivered.

WYNNTON SAFETY SQUAD

December 25: Team 5: Jesse Kelley, Comer Alexander, Dennis Robinson

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexy McRae
Lynn Christenson	Dorothy Robinson
Aubrey Walker	Jennefer Spell
Daro Miller	Jim Accordino
David Woolbright	Denise Hill
Pam Feagle	Benjamin Feagle
Julee Robinson McGehee	Barbara McKenzie
Betty Garrett	Richard Holmes
Lucy Hart	Agnes Tew
Andy Andresen	Joy Graham
Sue Pope	Freddie Richardson
Doris Rowe	Denton Spurlin
Tom Stafford	Shelley Montgomery

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please help us update our information (or pick up a card in the church) by using this QR code. Contact Will Walley at the church for more information or questions.





Join Us!

Christmas AT WYNNTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata "One Silent Night" Sunday, Dec. 11 • 8:30AM & 11AM Worship Services	Christmas Caroling to Homebound Members Sunday, Dec. 18 • 3:00PM Caroling and Return to Church for Soup and Dessert	Christmas Eve Candlelighting Services Saturday, Dec. 24 3:30PM and 5:30PM Traditional Worship Service	Christmas Day Service Sunday, Dec. 25 10:00AM Traditional Worship Service
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2412 Wynnton Road • Midtown Columbus • wynntonumc.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 25
 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
 Streams Live on Facebook

Monday, December 26
 Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27
 Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28
 Office Open

Thursday, December 29
 Office Closed

Sunday, January 1
 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies Dec. 23-25
 Dr. Jason Wade 770-289-4039