

Creativity & the Music of Christmas

I. The Music of His Incarnation

A. Music and Christmas are woven together. Music invites us into wonder.

1. O **come**, all ye faithful, **joyful** and **triumphant**,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and **behold** him,
Born the King of angels!
O come, let us **adore** him,... Christ the Lord!

Music can draw us into **beholding** with wonder. Like the Magi, we see God in the face of a baby.

Matt 2.10 ESV When they saw the star, they **rejoiced exceedingly** with **great joy**. **11** And going into the house they **saw** the child with Mary his mother, and they **fell down and worshiped him**. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

2. **Sing**, choirs of angels, **sing** in exultation,
O **sing**, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him,... Christ the Lord!

Music serves no biological purpose. As Bono, the lead singer for U2 put it, "music is a matter of the spirit."

Those who think that the universe is only material substance ... find it hard to explain music. They have to assume that music evolved from animals, but none of our alleged evolutionary cousins make music. (Some birds do "sing," but no one has proposed that we, or our music, evolved from them.) Charles Dar-

win thought that music evolved as an aid to mating. That might be believed if rapists took bands to lure their victims. ...

Music seems a natural, perhaps even essential, part of life to the Western mind because it has been an integral part of traditional worship and education...¹

Pipe organs ...

Music is physical, mathematical – It's made by the right length and weight of a string at the right tension, or the right length and diameter of a tube and vibrating at the right frequency repeating in a tempo of sound and silence. Music is also spiritual, it impacts our soul and our morality.

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him,... Christ the Lord!

[John 1:1 NKJ](#) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

[John 1:14 NKJ](#) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

“In the beginning, God created the **heavens** and the **earth**.”

B. Freedom Invites us to Shout for Joy! (New Creation)

[Luke 1:26 NKJV](#) Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was **sent** by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was **Mary**. **28** And having come in, the

¹ Excerpt From: Vishal Mangalwadi. “The Book that Made Your World.”

angel said to her, “**Rejoice, highly favored one**, the Lord *is* with you; **blessed are you** among women!”

Sent – ἀποστέλλω – to bring Heaven’s culture
Rejoice! — Shout for Joy! Full of Grace, Highly Favored

Why “Shout for Joy?”

Job 38:4 ESV “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? ...

7 when the morning stars **sang together**
and all the sons of God **shouted for joy?**

C. The Solution is Conceived in the Midst of the Problem

Luke 1:30 NKJ Then the angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have **found favor** with God. 31 And behold, **you will conceive in your womb** and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name **JESUS**. 32 He will be **great**, and will be called the **Son of the Highest**; and the Lord God will give Him the **throne** of His father David. 33 And He will **reign** over the house of Jacob **forever**, and of His **kingdom** there will be no end.”

D. Unprecedented? Yes. Impossible? No!

Luke 1:34 NKJ Then Mary said to the angel, “**How** can this be, since I do not know a man?”

35 And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit* will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will **overshadow** you; therefore, also, that **Holy One** who is to be born will be called the **Son of God**. 37 For **with God nothing will be impossible.**”

Exod 40:34 NIV Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses could not

enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had **settled upon it**, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Greek — ἐπισκιάζω

Hebrew — שְׁכִינָה Shakan (Shekinah)

II. Our Great Honor – Give Permission to God to Save US!!

[Luke 1:38 NKJ](#) Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me **according to your word.**” And the angel departed from her.

In that Moment, Logos became Rhema

The **Great** became **Small**

The **Strong** became **Weak**

From being **His Own** he made Himself **Ours**

The **Insignificant** became **Significant!**

[2 Cor 9.15](#) Thanks be to God for **his inexpressible gift!**

Tiny... the womb of an teenaged virgin becomes the Temple of the Great One who cannot be contained.

God borrows Mary’s flesh for His work to Save mankind from their sin & recreate the World

The Solution is conceived inside the Problem (humanity)

Timelessness enters Time

The Uncreated becomes part of Creation

Eve believed a fallen angel, Mary believed the undefiled Gabriel, who carried the presence of God and becomes the Ark, the Tabernacle, the Temple

Mary the 1st Missionary Pregnant with Joy!

Luke 1:39 NKJ Now Mary **arose** (**ἀνίστημι**) in those days and went into the hill country **with haste**, to a city of Judah, **40** and entered the house of Zachariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And it happened, **when Elizabeth heard** the greeting of Mary, that **the babe leaped** in her womb; and **Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit**.

- 42** Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "**Blessed** are you among women, and **blessed is** the fruit of your womb! **43** But why *is* this *granted* to me, that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me? **44** For indeed, **as soon as the voice** of your greeting **sounded in my ears**, the babe **leaped** in my womb **for joy**.
- 45** **Blessed (happy)** *is* she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

When we are holding within ourselves the unformed and unseen solution, our voice transmits joy!

III. Profound Joy — The Fruit of "I Do"

Luke 1:46 NKJ And Mary said:

"My **soul magnifies** the Lord,

47 And my **spirit** has **rejoiced** in God my Savior.

48 For He has **regarded** the **lowly state** of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth **all generations** will call me ***blessed**.

Mary now sees the **FUTURE** as the **PRESENT**. She's already tasting the power of the **AGE TO COME**

49 For He who is mighty **has done** great things **for me**,
And holy *is* His name.

50 And His **mercy is** on those who fear Him
From **generation to generation**.

51 He has shown **strength** with His **arm**;
He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones,

And **exalted *the* lowly.**

IV. The Love of God Appearing!

God wanted to be Loved more than Feared.

1 John 4:9 NIV This is **how God showed his love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Helpless... he is wrapped in cloths and cannot move. He weeps and trembles with the cold, lying in the feed trough he cannot feed himself, He must be held and warmed. Nursed with the milk that will become his body and his blood.

Humble... born as part a homeless, misunderstood, unwelcome family, his first breath includes the smell of manure.

He laid in a manger that we might be seated with Him.

He was born in a cave, that we might be born from above.

Poor... his parents cannot afford a lamb, and buy two doves for the ritual of purification.

Adopted... Must be adopted and protected by Joseph, the dreamer.

Fugitive... He who holds all things together, with his parents, had to run for their lives. So that you might run into His arms.

V. The Response to His Love — Living in Joy

Luke 2:10 NKJV Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you **good tidings of great joy** which will be to **all people.** 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

COMMISSIONED TO CARRY INFECTIOUS, SUBVERSIVE, REVOLUTIONARY JOY!