

Child of Hope



A Christmas Message of Encouragement and Peace

Music and Orchestration by
Mark Hayes

Lyrics by
John Parker

Narration by
Audra Parker

Congregation

(Please respond when directed)

Male Narrator: In overwhelming darkness...light shines its brightest.
Female Narrator: In the midst of fear...peace brings relief.
Male Narrator: In our sinfulness...God's grace abounds.
Female Narrator: In the storms of life...there is a refuge.
Male Narrator: In our doubts...belief can be strengthened.
Female Narrator: And with the promise of a Savior, hope *can* be found.

Savior of Light

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Choir only)

***Men:** Lord, we live in darkness; send us Your light.
Women: Lord, we live in fear; relieve us with Your peace.
Men: Lord, we live in doubt; strengthen our belief.
Monologue: I was crushed when God found me. My heart was broken, and my pain was overwhelming. In so much despair, and with nowhere to turn, I wondered how long I could survive. I cried out for help! God, save me!
Male Narrator: The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves anyone whose spirit is crushed. The righteous may have many troubles, but God will deliver them from all trouble and bring them to a place of refuge and rest. *(paraphrased from Psalm 34:18-22)*
Monologue: And God heard me...giving me grace and hope long before the first words of my prayer were even spoken.
Women: Lord, our lives are chaotic; help us find Your refuge.
Men: Lord, You promised a Savior; send Him today.
Women: Lord, we wait in hope; send Messiah today.
All: Send Him, Lord, we pray.

*Men/Women/All parts may be assigned to soloist, choir sections, or congregation. Any Monologue may be replaced with a personal testimony from the choir or congregation.

My God Will Forever Be Strong

O Holy Night

(Choir only)

- Male Narrator:** In a world filled with worry and fear, God is our refuge and strength.
- Monologue:** I was so afraid. It seemed like everywhere I turned I faced problems. No job...overdue bills...aging parents. I was so paralyzed by worry, I couldn't take care of anything. I was drowning in hopelessness (*beat*)...until the words of a child reminded me of God's promise.
- Child:** Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of earth. God will not grow tired or weary. God strengthens the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even the young grow tired and weary. Even the young grow weary, stumble and fall. But anyone whose hope is in the Lord will have a renewed spirit and will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not become weary. (*paraphrased from Isaiah 40:28-31*)
- Monologue:** It took humble words spoken by a small, sweet voice to remind me to fully trust in God. (*beat*) Distress and despair ceased. Here's hope: God is able to take care of us no matter what we need.
- Female Narrator:** No matter our weakness
- Male Narrator:** God is very present
- Female Narrator:** and well proved help
- Male Narrator:** in times of trouble and doubt.

This Is God's Way

(Choir only)

Hope Is Born

What Child Is This?

(Choir only)

- Male Narrator:** God saw His people waiting in hope for His light to end their darkness.
- Female Narrator:** God sent an angel to Mary, telling her of the prophecy she would fulfill.
- Male Narrator:** At the right time, God sent Jesus to be born.
- Female Narrator:** God sent angels to reveal His Son's birth to shepherds.
- Men:** Gloria! The Savior is born!
- Women:** Gloria! Praise God in heaven!
- All:** Gloria in excelsis Deo! Join as the angels rejoice!

When Angels Fill the Sky

Angels We Have Heard on High

(Choir only)

- Male Narrator:** Darkness has ended; God's light has come.
- Women:** Lord, we praise You.
- Female Narrator:** Angels filled the sky announcing hope is born!
- Men:** Lord, we thank You.

Monologue: I sat silently weeping as I had so many times before...*(beat)* feeling hopeless and alone. But then, I felt a gentle hand on my shoulder. I was no longer alone. Someone sat next to me...*(beat)* listening...*(beat)* comforting. She shared with me the strength, hope and love she found in God's merciful grace.

Female Narrator: By faith, I, too, found hope in God's mercy. My soul rejoices! And I, like the shepherds, share in the joy and hope in the arrival of Messiah.

Men: Like the prodigal, we were lost.

Women: But now, in Your mercy, we are found.

All: Thank You, God, for Your grace.

Shepherds Prayer

The First Nowell

(Choir only)

Female Narrator: Like Mary and Joseph welcoming Your Son, Lord, help us greet each new day with joy!

Male Narrator: Like magi following the star, Lord, help us seek Your light.

Female Narrator: Like all those who came before us, let us worship Your chosen one.

All: Holy God, we worship You.

We Will Worship Him, Too

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(Choir only)

Male Narrator: Long ago the world waited in darkness.

Men: You sent Your Son, Your light.

Female Narrator: Now we wait once more for Your Son to appear.

Women: We see as through a mirror.

Men: Our sight is imperfect at best.

Monologue 1: Yet in You I find strength and love...

Monologue 2: You are able to provide for all of our needs...

Monologue 3: and, You still rescue the lost.

Male Narrator: But when the Savior returns,

Female Narrator: our eyes will be opened, and the imperfect will pass away...

Men: we will see clearly...

Women: our sight will be complete...

Female Narrator: our faith will be fulfilled...

All: So let us share God's love with others as we wait in hope once more.

Share the Joy!

Finale

(Choir only)