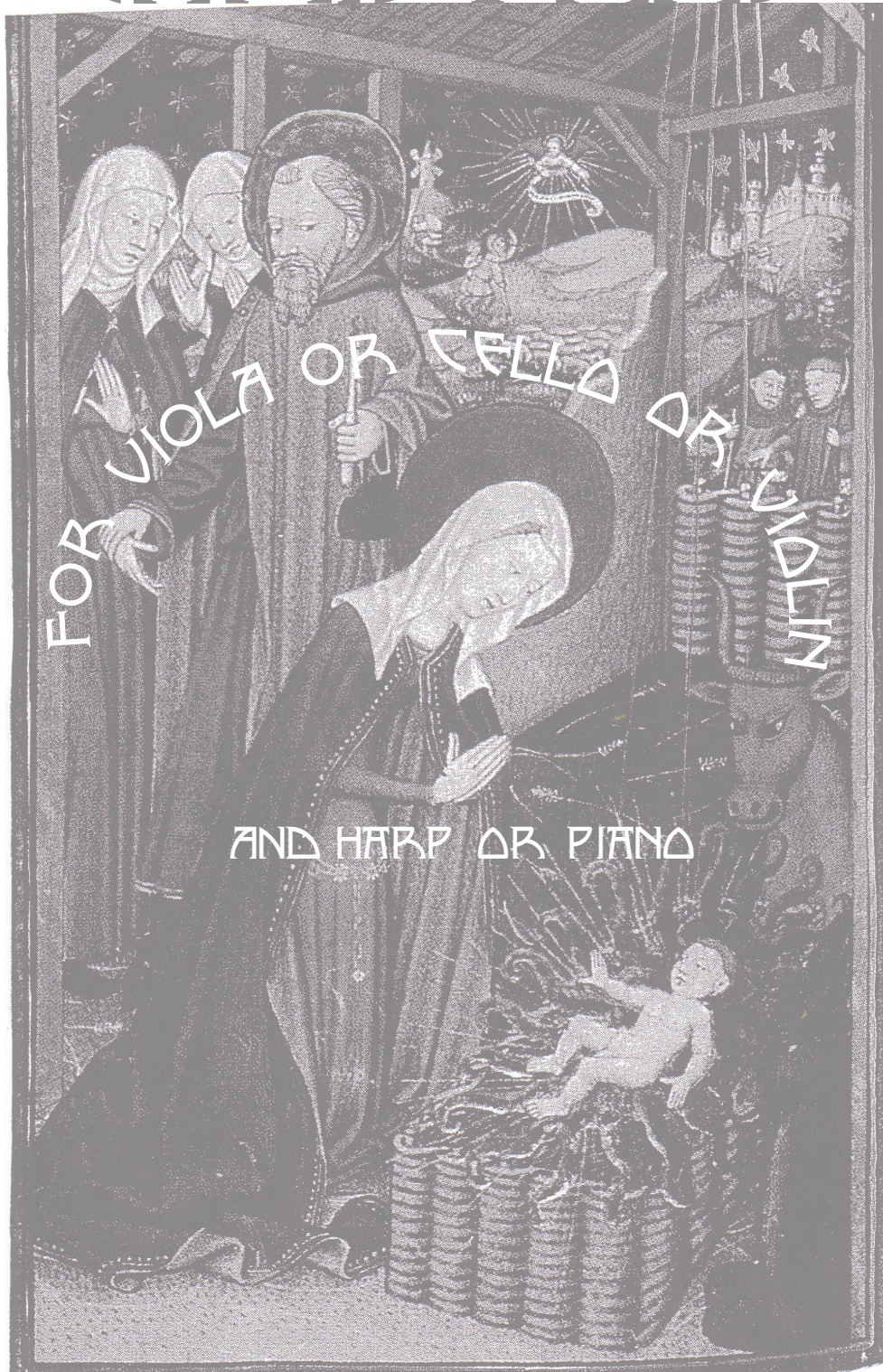


# CHRISTMAS



# MEDITATIONS

ARRANGED BY  
GAIL SALVATORI

# COVENTRY CAROL

## Meditative Thought

Tiny king in danger, sing lully.  
O sisters, how may we do, for to preserve  
This day, this poor youngling,  
For whom we do sing, by bye lully, lullaby?

## Word Study

Preserve: to guard and defend on an inward level.

King: male sovereign: independent and supreme (the greatest possible power, and authority)

## Meditative Questions

Is Christ Jesus, king in your life? Have you put a guard of protection around your heart that only faith and His strength can sustain?

## Meditative Scripture

John 18:36 Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. You say correctly that I am a king. For this reason I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the Truth.'

I Peter 3:15-16 But in your hearts, set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.

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## **INFANT LOWLY**

### **Meditative Thought**

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His head a cattle stall,  
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

### **Word Study**

Holy: separate/set apart in character and conduct from sin.

Lowly: humble- bringing one's self low-lying in mind.

Lord: one possessing supreme authority and power.

### **Meditative Question**

What is the condition of your heart?  
'Little knowing'? Or humble,  
with the knowledge of who the Christ babe is?  
This babe faces us with a choice, and that choice starts  
inside our hearts.

### **Meditative Scripture**

Isaiah 57:15      Colossians 2:9, and 3:1

For this is what the high and lofty One says, He who lives forever, whose name is holy, 'I live in a high and lofty place, but also with him who is contrite, and lowly in spirit- to revive the heart of the contrite.' For in Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. Therefore, set your hearts on things above.

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# **JOY TO THE WORLD**

## **Meditative Thought**

Joy to the world, the Lord has come,  
Let earth receive her king!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.

## **Word Study**

Joy: joy is a choice to trust God,  
in spite of circumstances surrounding you.  
It is a decision of the will,  
to allow peace to reside inside your heart.  
It is not based on feelings.

## **Meditative Question**

In what ways are you preparing your heart  
to receive your King?  
What choices are you making, in faith, that will lead to joy?

## **Meditative Scripture**

James 1:1-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers,  
whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
because you know that the testing of your faith  
develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its' work,  
so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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# ROCKING

## Meditative Thought

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, so not to stir,  
We will lend a coat of fur.  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you.  
We will serve you all we can, darling, darling, little man.

## Word Study

Serve: to minister to the needs of another;  
to minister to the will of another;  
any subordinate, acting under another's direction.

Man: 'fully God, fully man'. Jesus was born of human origin;  
the word is used with an article, which denotes a definite, particular person.

## Meditative Question

What an amazing mystery! God is with us, as man!  
Accomplishing, again, the impossible! To such a God is due  
a bending of the knee, and our will. Have you put yourself under His rule?  
In what ways can you serve this God, who gave so much for you?

## Meditative Scripture

Matthew 1:22

James 4:7-10

The virgin will be with child, and will give birth to a son,  
and they will call Him, 'Emmanuel', which means 'God with us'.

Our Response:

Submit yourselves then, to God. Wash your hands, purify your hearts,  
and grieve your sin. Humble yourselves before the Lord,  
and He will lift you up.

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## **IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER**

### **Meditative Thought**

Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain.  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed  
For the Lord almighty, Jesus Christ.

### **Word Study**

Bleak: desolately barren/lifeless/unproductive of life.

Almighty: ruler over all; to hold, or to have strength.

### **Meditative Question**

Life without God in Jesus Christ, is desolately barren and  
lifeless-without purpose. Because He is almighty,  
He has all strength to change our situation and position eternally.  
How do these facts change your outlook  
and bring hope into your life?

### **Meditative Scripture**

Romans 5:1-4

Romans 11:33-36

You see, at the right time, when we were still powerless,  
Christ died for the ungodly... God demonstrates His love for us  
in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us! Oh, the  
depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How  
unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!  
Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has seen His  
counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay Him?  
For from Him, and through Him, and to Him, be the glory forever!

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## **TRIP TO SLIGO/PAT-A-PAN**

### **Meditative Thought**

Thus the men of olden days  
Loved the King of Kings to praise  
When they hear the fife and drum  
God and man are now become, more at one that fife and drum.

### **Word Study**

Praise: to speak, or show by actions, what is true of that which is being praised. To speak the truth about something, or someone.

At one: What has been torn apart, has been brought back together again.

### **Meditative Question**

We were torn apart from God due to sin. His coming to earth brought us the ability to be back in relationship with Him, as one, again. How do you praise Him with your life and words, speaking truth about who He is, and what He's done for you?

### **Meditative Scripture**

John 17:20-23

Psalm 52:9

Jesus prays:

'Father, I pray, in the power of Your name that all of them may be as one, as You and I are one, so the world may believe that You have sent Me'.

Our Response:

'I will praise You forever for what You have done! In Your name, I will hope, for Your name is good.'

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## **OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN**

### **Meditative Thought**

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be.  
He is alpha and omega, the source, the ending. He, of things  
That are, that have been, and that future years shall see.  
Evermore and evermore.

### **Word Study**

Love: agape love is the inner attitude of the heart that chooses positively towards another, in spite of circumstances or feelings. Love can only be known from the actions it prompts. It is a deliberate choice.  
Begotten: to bring forth- to birth; to cause to come

### **Meditative Question**

It was God's agape love for us that brought forth Jesus to us. As you absorb the wonder of such love, what agape choices can you make to 'bring forth' love in the hearts of others, and their lives?

### **Meditative Scripture**

Isaiah 64:3-4

Romans 8:31-32, 39

For you did awesome things we did not expect-You came down,  
and the mountains trembled! Since ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on the behalf of those who wait for Him.

Our Response:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His Own Son, but gave Him up for us all- how will He not also graciously give us all things? I am convinced that nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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## **WHENCE COMES THIS RUSH OF WINGS?**

### **Meditative Thought**

Whence comes this rush of wings afar, following straight the  
Nowell star? Birds from the woods in wondrous flight,  
Bethlehem seek this holy night. Christ on earth with man doth dwell,  
Join in the shout, 'Nowell, Nowell!'

### **Word Study**

Rush: move forward, or act with great speed

Flight: ability to fly, to rise above others,  
Moving towards a goal.

### **Meditative Question**

There is a wondrous truth that Christmas speaks-  
God with man, on earth! Do you hold back from embracing such love,  
or do you move forward, with such great speed,  
that you take flight, rising above others,  
seeing truth with heavenly eyes?

### **Meditative Scripture**

Phillipians 3:13-16

Brothers, the one thing I do is to forget what lies behind, and I strain toward what is ahead (my eyes looking upward). I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called all of us (to know Him, and become like Him in character).

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# **THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD IS BORN**

## **Meditative Thought**

Behold, to you we bring great joy. For why? Jesus is born today.  
And thus in faith, find Him ye shall, lying poorly in oxen stall.  
The shepherds lauded God, for the savior of the world is born.

## **Word Study**

Today: on, or for, this day- this present time

Faith: moral convictions concerning the truthfulness of God,  
and as a result, reliance on Him for one's very life, both  
eternal, and present.

## **Meditative Question**

The only guarantee we have in living this life is what we  
experience this moment in which we find ourselves. This  
moment is called 'Today', and demands from us a reverence, as  
we see life's importance in each moment we are graciously  
allowed to live. Is your response to 'Today', one of faith- true faith  
that is founded in what is true about God? Do you totally  
rely on Him for the life you live, 'Today'?

## **Meditative Scripture**

Hebrews 3:15

Hebrews 11:1

Today, If you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as you  
did in the rebellion. Know that, faith is being sure of what we  
hope for and certain of what we do not see.

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