



# Glory to God

*in the highest, and on earth peace,  
good will toward men. Luke 2:14*

December 10, 2025

Whenever I read the words from Luke at the top of this Christmas letterhead, I immediately think of Charlie Brown and Linus standing center stage at the Christmas pageant rehearsal. I can hear Linus ask for the lights to be dimmed so that he, in a solitary down-spot, can answer Charlie Brown's desperate question, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" with a simple, "Sure Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about."

There is something so captivating about the way that in just an instant, in the midst of the pageant's chaotic rehearsal and poor Charlie Brown's emotional meltdown, Charles Schulz (through Linus) managed to shut out all the noise and take us to a moment of quiet simplicity in the story of Jesus' birth in the manger – a calm and holy moment in a busy world full of confusion and anxiety.

Fr. Mark truly loved this Christmas special. Well, as we all know, he loved everything about Christmas including lights, LOTS of lights, and decorating, and really big Christmas trees, and all the colors, and frills, and activity the season brings with it. But there was something thing he treasured above all of these. Each year, toward the end of the late service on Christmas Eve, when he finished cleaning up the altar after Communion, he would go to the altar rail to kneel as we all sang Silent Night in the candlelit stillness. For Mark, that sacred, healing moment, letting the awesome mystery of Christ's incarnation wash over him, was what Christmas was all about.

We all know that is very hard to avoid the to-do lists, and hectic shopping, and baking, and cleaning, and wrapping, and all that we do in order to prepare for Christmas. But while we are up to our necks in the stress and activity of the season, let's look for those quiet moments of simplicity that allow of the coming of Christ to fill us with wonder. It is not the to-do lists that pull us toward Christmas, but the promise of a quiet glory, in a manger in Bethlehem shining through the chaos.

In a prayer written by John Henry Newman (it's found in the back of the Book of Common Prayer in the Prayers and Thanksgivings section) we find the words,

*"O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done..."*

I pray this season that we all find time to hush the busy world and cool the fever of life so that, our work being done, we can allow that quiet glory in Linus' answer and the peace of Christ to bring us joy and wonder.

Wishing you joy this Christmastide,

*Theresa*

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