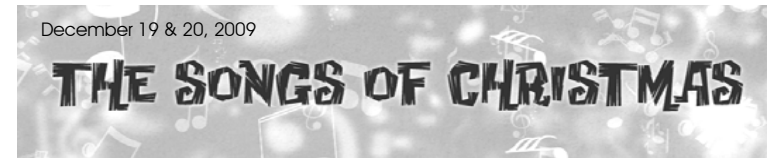


## STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ What warm “Kodak moments” do you have about a life experience or loved one? Is there a zany one can you recall? Has this Christmas season given you any moments that you’ll “treasure” in your heart as Mary did?
- ❖ What are the sources of chaos that you or others you know experience at Christmas? Which are the hardest to deal with: self-imposed or externally imposed pressures and why?
- ❖ What are you doing this Christmas season to try and keep your perspective about the real meaning of the season straight? What do you wish perhaps you’d done differently that can be “packed away” for next year?
- ❖ Look again at Isaiah 30:15 and compare it with Matthew 11:28-30. What differences or similarities do you see in these 2 passages? What pictures or images come into your mind as you think of the Lord as a “resting place?” If you were a driven, workaholic, how could you apply Isaiah 30:15 to your life?
- ❖ When have you been conscious of God using someone in your life as a “divine appointment?” When have you sensed him using you in someone else’s life that way? What must we do as Christ’s followers to better “redeem the time” as Ephesians 5:15-16?
- ❖ Read Ephesians 3:16-18 again from the outline. What picture is created in your mind by these words? Do you think this prayer of Paul could ever really be answered?



## “Silent Night”

### A Song to the rescue!

1818 – St. Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, Austria.  
Fr. Joseph Mohr and Francis Gruber; Karl Mauracher

### Finding Christmas in the chaos

#### 1. Make room for Christ permanently.

*Ephesians 3:16-19 (TEV) "I ask God...to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves...that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. Yes, may you come to know his love -- although it can never be fully known -- and so be completely filled with the very nature of God."*

#### 2. Reserve time for truth consistently.

*Isaiah 50:4-5 (NASB95) "He awakens me morning by morning, he awakens my ear to listen as a disciple. The Lord God has opened my ear; and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back."*

*Isaiah 30:15-16 (NKJV) Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not, and you said, "We will flee on horses...on swift horses."*

### 3. Savor sacred moments frequently.

#### \* Appreciate Chronos & Kairos times!

*Titus 1:2-3 (HCSB) ...In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, and has in His own time revealed...*

*Luke 2:16-20 (NIV) They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.*

*Psalms 46:9-10 (NIV) He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth... "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

### Additional message notes & actions to take:

### 4. Seize divine opportunities reverently.

*Ephesians 5:15-16 (AMP) Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily...Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.*

*2 Corinthians 2:14 (NRSV) Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us...and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him.*

Bible Versions used: KJV-King James; NKJV-New King James; NIV-New International; NCV-New Century; TLB-Living Bible; NLT-New Living Translation; Msg-The Message; GW-God's Word; TEV-Today's English; CEV-Contemporary English; NAS - New American Standard; NJB-New Jerusalem Bible; HCSB-Holman Christian Standard; Phi-Phillips Translation; Amp-Amplified Bible; NRSV-New Revised Standard

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