

12-17-1953

# Notes: Christmas Vesper: Songs for the Child, 1953

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## Recommended Citation

Kretzmann, O.P., "Notes: Christmas Vesper: Songs for the Child, 1953" (1953). *O.P. Kretzmann Collection*. 183.  
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DATE 12/17/53 OCCASION Christmas Vesper

1969 I hope that you have noted with spirit all the ones them: Songs in the Night - songs to be sung - hope to continue

THEME Songs for the Child. His them

643  
1969  
I

1. On a certain day - more than 1900 years ago - the angels of heaven were engaged in the ~~working~~ tasks which have been theirs since the dawn of creation - seemingly routine day - some watching little children - guarding ships at sea - hovering at the beds of the sick and the dying - all over the world - Regions of them - though the human race, as always, was unconscious of their presence.
2. yet - something different about the angels that day - a tenseness - a sense of expectancy - something tremendous about to happen in the Universe - in Rome, in Europe, N. & S. America all the continents & islands of the ~~world~~ <sup>sea</sup> they were waiting and listening - the greatest event in the history of the human race was about to happen and the angels knew it. Time people in our time waiting for an important, worldwide broadcast they listened for the first news from Bethlehem - it was close to midnight - <sup>when</sup> suddenly they heard it - the beginning of the drama written at the beginning of time - the voice of the Angel whom they all knew so well: "Fear not" - and then - and then - the music which they had heard only at home in the high halls of heaven <sup>among the twin lilies</sup> ~~the~~ the first song for the child in the manger & the greatest: "Glory to God" - sing along - sure they did - waiting for this moment - their eternal God & King had become a Baby in the manger -

DATE Christmas Eve OCCASION 12/17/53

all history  
prelude to  
the birth  
of the  
savior

THEME Songs for the Child

3. No song in the story of mankind had been so long in preparation & coming - began beyond the centuries - beyond the doors of creation - in the quiet, unbroken realm of eternity where there was only God - then in the heart and mind of the living God was the first note of that song - world began - stars - murder - prophets - the human race groping, stumbling, falling - kings & princes - then this night - this silent, holy, mysterious night when God stepped down under a stable door and left a Child on the doorstep of our world - rang our bell and told us about it in the voices and the song of his messengers of peace - his angels & our angels who had waited for this moment as for nothing else in heaven and earth in time and eternity.

4. And so it has been ever since - always men & women in the world who have made and sung - songs for the Child - great, little, humble, bitter - carols & hymns & canticles - ever noticed? never is the world so filled with song as on Christmas eve - homeless and alone - troubled & lost - 20<sup>th</sup> century man turns with a desperate reach and a crying voice to the Child: Venite in Bethleem - suddenly we seem to know <sup>again</sup> that He has given us the sun & the moon and the stars - all the earth and all that lives and moves - all the things we have misused and all the things we fight about - and then, on Christmas