



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

From our Churches

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And There Was Light! Emmanuel!

A Choral Reading

Genesis 1, Luke 2

Choir: In the beginning
All was darkness
Brooding
Nothingness
Just dark

2 And God said

1 Let there be

C *(Start quietly, gradually become louder, and end with a dramatic "t".)*
lllllllllllllggggggghhhhhhtttttT

1 Light!

C And with the light came

(alternate between sides of the choir):

Growing things
Grass and wheat
Lentils and lilies
Fish of many colors

2 And God said

1 GOOD, VERY GOOD

C YES, *(stamp feet once hard)* VERY GOOD

(Pause)

2 Things didn't go so well

C *(One person starts, another quickly follows, then another – like a “round” or “canon.”
When you’ve finished your line, you repeat the word “eyes” until all are finished.)*

Everyone did what was right in their own eyes, eyes, eyes, eyes, (etc.)

Everyone did what was right in their own eyes, eyes, eyes, (etc.)

Everyone did what was right in their own eyes, eyes, (etc.)

2 And one by one important things disappeared

C Loyalty
Promise
Truthfulness

2 And one by one strange things appeared

C Fear (*staccato, emphasizing F*)
HUNger (*staccato, emphasizing HUN*)
Hatred (*staccato, emphasizing H*)

2 And God said

1 You need help

C NO WE DON'T!

2 And God said

1 I'll send you some help

C NOPE... WE'RE GOOD!

2 And God said

1 Help is on the way

C WE DON'T NEED IT!

1 I'm sending it along with the lliigghhhhtT

C WE PREFER THE DARK

1 I'm sending it along with LOVE

C OH PLEASE, WE PREFER NOT TO WORK THAT HARD

(Pause)

1 I'm sending a baby.

C A WHAT?

1 A baby

C AND YOU THINK A BABY'S GOING TO HELP? *(Laugh!)*

1 A helpless child

C *(LAUGH!)*

1 A human child

C *(LAUGH!)*

1 He will be rejected and despised,

C A BABY?!!! *(Laugh!)*

1 He will be acquainted with grief.

C A HELPLESS WITTLE BAHBY...OOOOHHHHHH

1 I'm sending you help.

C OH YEAH! WHEN'S THIS ITTY BITTY WITTLE BABY COMING ALONG, EH?

1 Not yet

C *(Sarcastically)* BETTER BE SOON 'CAUSE WE *(fingers in quotes)* NEED IT *(Laugh!)*

1 Not yet.

(Pause)

C ARE YOU SURE THE BABY'S COMING?

1 When all things are ready

C SO HOW'S THAT WORKING FOR YOU

(Longer pause)

C *(after awhile looking uncomfortable)* God? Where'd you go? I'M TALKING TO YOU!

(Pause)

C Well, SEND ME AN EMAIL WHEN HELP HAS ARRIVED!

(Pause. Some people begin texting, each start doing your own thing. After a long uncomfortable silence, individuals start calling out) GOD? God?

C GOD?! I thought you said we needed help? It's been centuries, you know! WELL, LIKE.... WHATEVER!!!!!!!!

(Longer Pause)

- 3 *(Whispering)* Llllllllllllll iggggggghhhhhhhttttTTTT
- 2 *(Quietly. Each of the following sections getting louder)* In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- C *(A few voices)* Llllllllllllll iggggggghhhhhhhttttTTTT
- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.
- C *(Add more voices)* Llllllllllllll iggggggghhhhhhhttttTTTT
- 2 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- C *(Add more voices)* Llllllllllllll iggggggghhhhhhhttttTTTT
- 2 Joseph went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- C *(All voices)* Llllllllllllll iggggggghhhhhhhttttTTTT
- 1 And God said, let there be LIGHT
- 2 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
- 3 And there was LIGHT. A BABY
- C Well, I'll be!
- 4 There were rumours about a baby.
- 3 A baby – bringing help!
- 4 Help. Let's face it, we have some troubles.
- (The following alternates between the 2 sides of the choir)*
- C1 I don't want to be scared no more:
- C2 Hungry no more
- C1 Fight no more

C2 Suffer no more

C HELP!!

1 The baby will help
He will grow
He will show you the strongest loyalty
The firmest promises
The deepest truth

Women Yet the darkness continued

All But we were no longer alone

W And so the darkness lifted

Men Yet our fear kept growing

All But we were no longer alone

M And so the fear lessened

W Yet our hunger hit us hard

All But we were no longer alone

W And so we tasted friendship

M Yet our hatred intensified

All But we were no longer alone

M And enemies sang songs together

1 One day the baby will remove ALL fear, hunger and hatred

All We look forward to that day. We look forward to that day! We are not alone!

1 Oh, I forgot to tell you the baby's name.

C What is it?

1 Emmanuel

C Emmanuel? What does it mean?

1 God with us

C Really? Wow! Who knew?! God with us!!!!
(Said to each other) God with us. We are no longer alone!
(Chuckle) GOOD! (Stamp feet once hard) VERY GOOD!