

## *GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE*

**Gathering Music: *Huron Carol*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DtOqcFBQgk>

'Twas in the moon of wintertime When all the birds had fled  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou Sent angel choirs instead  
Before their light the stars grew dim And wandering hunters heard the hymn  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born In excelsis gloria

Within a lodge of broken bark The tender Babe was found  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin Enwrapp'd His beauty round  
And as the hunter braves drew nigh The angel song rang loud and high  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born In excelsis gloria

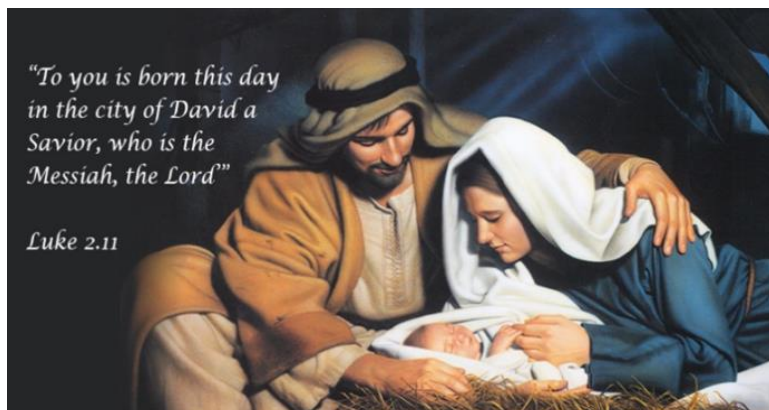
The earliest moon of wintertime Is not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory On the helpless infant there  
The chiefs from far before him knelt With gifts of fur and beaver pelt  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born In excelsis gloria

O children of the forest free O sons of Manitou  
The Holy Child of earth and heaven Is born today for you  
Come kneel before the radiant Boy Who brings you beauty, peace and joy  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born In excelsis gloria.

### **Readings:**

When all has gone quiet and the world begins to sleep  
nestled in and snug beneath a blanket of frost  
when the universe holds its breath and angels begin to stretch their wings  
and stars begin to slide into constellations of hope  
when music seems to hang in the air and creation hums its own carol  
about the longing for light and birth again from wintertime  
then the waiting ones gather to listen to these rumours  
and whisper about the birth of a child made all of light  
and together pass the word that soon and very soon...  
so let us gather with ever beating hearts, staying with Mary and Joseph  
wondering, labouring, longing, expecting the promise to break through the night.

R. Hamilton



R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord Lk. 2:11  
Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;  
let the sea and what fills it resound;  
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!  
then shall all the trees of the forest exult. Ps. 96:11-12, 13  
R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord

And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people: 11 For, this day, is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: 14 Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to people of good will. Lk. 2:10-14 Christmas Eve Mass 2023

Today the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to lengthen, as the hours of night become fewer.... Realize that the true light is now here and, through the rays of the gospel, is illumining the whole earth. Gregory of Nyssa



**Reflection:** How do I hope for and proclaim peace as the birth of Jesus illuminates the whole universe?

**Blessing:**

As we celebrate Christmas may we have courage to say 'yes' to the invitation of the Divine to love as we become attentive to the "new" being manifest to us at this time.

May the birth of Christ the Savior renew hearts, awaken the desire to build a future of greater solidarity, and bring joy and hope to everyone. Pope Francis

May all of us answer the call to give hope to our world by proclaiming with words, and above all by testimony of our lives, that Jesus, our peace, is born. Pope Francis