

ONE
Night
ONE
Star
ONE
Child



Dear Friends,

December 2019

At this festive time of year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let's think about hearts. First of all, God's heart and then our hearts.

God's heart is loving, forgiving and merciful. His greatest act of love was sending His son to this earth that we could become connected to Him. Let's thank him for loving us so much that he would reach out to us in this way – wanting a relationship with us as Ephesians 1:5 says (NLT) *“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bring-*

ing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do and it gave him great pleasure!”

How are our hearts this Christmas? Are they soft and tender – receptive to the Savior's love? Sometimes we feel locked up and self-protective because of hurts that we have experienced. When we allow those hurts to harden our heart, we cannot feel God's tender loving care. He longs for us to let go of the pain, give the pain to him so that he can fill us with his love. We can only do that if we open our hearts wide and let Him in. The Apostle Paul urges us to open our hearts in 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 *“We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.”*

God's love reminds me of this song:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina G. Rossetti

Let's open our hearts wide to the Savior this Christmas.

Wayne + Jeanine Allen

Wayne and Jeanine Allen

(Connected Marriage Refresher Info on back)

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