

CHRISTMAS IN POETRY



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 22

THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

LESSON TEXT—Luke 1:26-35.
GOLDEN TEXT—For unto you is born
this day in the city of David a Saviour
who is Christ the Lord—Luke 1:31.

Note: Since the lesson committee
has suggested the birth of Jesus, a
Christmas lesson, as an alternative for
this day, doubtless for most classes it
will be desirable to use the suggested
lesson and substitute the alternative
lesson for the review on December 23.

The birth of the Saviour occurred at
a most propitious time. The need was
great, for the systems of morals and
religion were tottering upon their
foundations. It was also a time of
great opportunity, for the whole world
was under one rule, making it possible
for evangelists to go from city to city
and country to country without fear or
molestation. The place of his birth,
Bethlehem, as the prophet had foretold
some seven hundred years before
(Micah 5:2). God permitted the
emperor to decree a decree of taxation
just at the time to cause Mary to be
at Bethlehem when she gave birth to
the Saviour. That which the Word of
God has announced must surely come
to pass, though its fulfillment
seem most unlikely and unobtainable.
The surroundings of his birth were
the most humble sort. The Al-
mighty Creator condescended to take
upon himself humanity—to be born in
a manger, becoming the poorest of the
poor—that none might be hindered
from coming to him.

1. The Saviour's Birth Announced
(2:1-14).
1. To Whom—Shepherds (v. 8). In
the first Christmas service the audi-
ence was composed of humble shep-
herds. The glorious gospel message
was first sounded forth to these hum-
ble men while watching over their
flocks by night. Poverty is no barrier
to the reception of the gospel message.
God does not reveal himself mainly to
the princes and great men of the earth.
"Hath not God chosen the poor of this
world; rich in faith and heirs of the
kingdom?" (James 2:5). Neither did
their devotion to their calling exclude
them from this greatest favor of God.
Moses, Gideon, Amos and Eliah were
called by the Lord from the busy ac-
tivities of life. He never calls the
idle. The Lord has no use for a lazy
man. The working man is God's pe-
culiar interest.

2. By Whom—The Angel of the Lord
(v. 9). The first gospel sermon was
delivered by the angel of the Lord.
Angels, the exalted ministers of God
are interested in men (Hebrews 1:14),
and this one announced unto men
God's plan of salvation. These beings
no doubt sincerely sympathized with
poor sin-cursed, fallen men.

3. The Message—Good Tidings (v.
10). (1) A Saviour is born. Surely
this was a glad message. Heathen
darkness which had so long cursed
the earth was beginning to vanish.
The casting out of Satan, the prince
of the world, was about to take place
(John 12:31). Liberty was about to
be proclaimed to those in bondage to
sin. The way of salvation was about
to be opened to all. So glorious was
this news that a multitude of the hea-
venly host accompanied this announce-
ment with their song of praise. It is
through Jesus Christ that God's kind-
ness and good will are made known to
man. (2) Peace (v. 14). Peace with
God—peace of heart—peace with man.
How incongruous this message with our
time! The world war was the result
of not receiving this blessed mes-
sage. (3) Joy (v. 10). The gospel
message is a joyful message because it
freed from sin and removes all the
burdens of this world.

4. The Shepherds Make Investigation
(2:15, 16).
Though things seemed pass-
ing strange to them they did not stop
to question or argue; they went
straight to Bethlehem and found
everything just as the angels had said.
They had the glorious privilege of
gazing upon the world's Saviour—the
very Lord of glory.

5. The Shepherds Witnessing (2:
17).
When they saw the Lord they could
remain silent. They were im-
pelled to make known abroad the good
news. Those who have heard the good
news of salvation through Christ and
have verified it by personal investiga-
tion must tell it to others. The angels
said that the good tidings of great joy
should be to all people (v. 10). The
gospel of Christ is for all people re-
gardless of nationality or condition.
It is just as really good news to the
poor as to the peasant. It fills the
hearts of all with joy.

6. The Shepherds Praising God
(2:18-20).
The testimony of the shepherds had
a varying effect—some wondered, and
others kept the sayings and pondered
them, but the shepherds went back
glorifying and praising God for all
they had seen and heard. Those who
have believed the gospel message and
proclaimed it abroad have a peculiar
joy which must express itself in
praise to God.

Prayer diligence before bedtime, un-
less you esteem that before bedtime.
—Pine

The week of December 10 to Decem-
ber 23 is roll call week for the Ameri-
can Red Cross. This is a Christmas
roll call to the citizens of this country
to enlist in the Army of Service. The
need for service is not abated by the
ending of the war—the need for ser-
vice will not be ended for a long time.
At home and far afield the Red Cross
must continue the work of relieving
the suffering that follows in the wake
of the war. Refugees and orphans
are still to be clothed and fed and
housed. The antitubercular cam-
paign must be kept up and the fami-
lies of soldiers helped. Only a part
of the work of the Red Cross ends
with the cessation of hostilities.

The Christmas roll call has for its
object more than anything else the
enrollment of all adults as members
of the Red Cross and the appeal is
for \$1 memberships. The canvass will
be mainly for this. The Red Cross
makes its appeal to all, without re-
gard to creed, race, sect, faction or
class; it is one organization for uni-
versal service based on sympathy and
humanity. Of course everybody that
is anybody wants to belong to it.

The Good-Will Box.
Home war home in establishing its
good-will box for the benefit of peo-
ple less fortunate than its own members.
In the end it develops that the house-
hold is benefited in turn and a dem-
onstration that it is more blessed to
give than receive is brought about in
the most practical way. Into the good-
will box go all the used or unused ar-
ticles that are not needed in the house-
hold, but might be used by some one
else. Clothing, shoes, books, magaz-
ines, pictures, house furnishings, chin-
a and glassware, which have served
for a time, but have been re-
placed without being worn out, these
are all assembled in the good-will box
to be redistributed where they can do

some good. Things of this kind simply
clutter up the average storeroom space
in the average home, accumulate dust,
and are in the way generally when
they might be useful elsewhere. It
would be a fine idea for every com-
munity if the contents of good-will boxes
could be collected in one place either
for sale or distribution, and disposed
of once or twice a year.

The money that has been salvaged
from useless old silver and gold
trinkets ought to inspire everyone who
possesses battered and uninteresting
things made of the precious metals to
convert them into bullion. Since the
war, women have unlearned all sorts
of old gold and silver ornaments, jew-
elry and flat wear, some of it atroc-
iously ugly, and turned it in for
melting up. With the gold and silver
procured they buy War Savings
stamps. But even if they do not care
to invest it is worth while to turn use-
less junk into money which can be put
to work and thereby made useful.

Watteau Plait in Winter Frocks.
For dinner frocks black is much
used, sleeves are short and the wat-
teau plait is favored. In a black
mousseline de soie gown embodying
these details the corsage consists of
a broad draped cervice velvet girdle
that narrows at the back and holds
down the wattle plait with a large
knot. Also for dinner frocks em-
bossed velvet is much used. Waists in
sleeves are short and draped effects
predominate. Dinner frocks are often
of charmesse with the selvege serv-
ing as a hem. A well-designed evening
gown is of black charmesse with a
two-tiered tulle tunic heavily embro-
dered in pearl and jet chrysanthem-
ums and edged with narrow feather
trimming. A broad silver girdle slips
under the tulle, in back and ends in
a discreetly veiled bow.

EVERY WOMAN LOVES FURS



Whether it is because they are be-
coming or because an atmosphere of
luxury, and sometimes a suggestion of
splendor belongs to them, or that they
are so comfortable for every woman
they might be excused for being
extravagant in this direction; there
are so many reasons why furs are a
better investment than any other sort
of apparel. Furriers have presented
a greater variety in scarf and wrap
than in fur garments of all kinds
than is usual in one season and this
has made one more reason why furs
are everywhere. Their vogue is uni-
versal.

Beginning with the short muffer
collar and ending with the long coat,
one may buy wraps of any size be-
tween with muffs to match. The scarfs
or capes and muffs classed as sepa-
rate furs and belts are made in all va-
rieties of skins. Then there are the
short coats (their name is legion) and
finally the long capes and coats that
almost cover the figure.

The separate fur—scarfs or small
pieces with muffs to match—has been
popular. Recently furs trimmed
with the same fur or partly made of
it, have added a chic, harmonious de-
tail to the midwinter toilette for the
street, but a scarf or cape looks well
with any sort of millinery. The hand-
some mink scarf and muff shown in
the picture are designed for matronly
wearers and are good example of new
but simple styles that will outlast
any other season. Falls as a finish for
scarf ends have been reinstated, but
the flat fur-covered button is a novel
frill of sorts along the center of the
scarf to protect the lining when the
scarf is brought close up about the

throat. The melon muf is finished at
the ends with plaited puffs of satin
and hangers of satin allow it to be
worn suspended from the arm. Hous-
ing the muffs, the muffs, the muffs,
are the short-haired furs liked best for
sets with marten, skunk, fox and sa-
ble the choicest in long-haired pelts.

Julia Bortolotto

Perspiration Stains.

Perspiration stains can be boiled out
of white matten, but is colored and
usually means that the per-
piration has spoiled the color. In that
case, about the only thing to do is to
bleach the garment white by boiling
it in a solution of washing soda—
about a capital of dinner in a boiler half
full of water. It is, of course, dis-
appointing to find oneself in possession
of a plain white frock or blouse in-
stead of one of dainty blue or pink;
but surely the money-worth is more at-
tractive to all eyes than a streaked
yellow-stained color.

Amber Instead of Pink.

Flesh-pink chin and georgette
blouses are being worn so universally
now that women of exclusive taste
have turned to another tint, and that
tint seems to be amber—not yellow,
and not tan, but the indescribable glow
of sunset seen through a hazy shroud
through clear amber. A simple tucked
batiste blouse becomes, touched by the
magic wand of amber, an exclusive
model—worth several dollars. Amber
chiffon blouses cost at least one, and am-
ber georgette trimmed with flat lace
is exceedingly distinguished in price.

seemed to drown the must of the
bells.

"It was as if an earthquake rent
The heartstones of a continent.

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no power on earth, I said,
For hate is strong.
Of peace on earth, good will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and
deep;
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fall,
The right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men!"

"An Joseph was a workman,
He heard an angel sing
This night shall be the birth night
Of Christ, our heavenly king!"

down through a sort of procession of
Christmas ideals in successive cen-
turies to our own time, when

"Hark, the herald angels sing"
seems to embody Christmas joy in En-
glish-speaking lands the world over.

Christmas in America has to adjust
itself to a different environment from
the old world setting. The heroic strug-
gle of our pioneer ancestors turned the
lyre of one of our ballad writers to tell
of "The First Christmas in New En-
gland." His picture of the forbidding
New England coast presents a pitiable
contrast to the warmth and cheer
which memories of Christmas suggest.

"They thought they had come to their
port that day,
But not yet was their journey done;
And they drifted away from Provincetown
Bay.

In the freezing light of the sun,
With sails and sheet, were the tall masts
seen
And gloomy and chill was the air;
But they looked from the crystal sails to
Christ.

And they came to a harbor fair,
The white hills silent lay.
For there were no ancient bells to ring
No priest to chant, no choir to sing.
No chapel of barn, or lord or king,
That gray, cold winter day."

Then the voyagers remembered the
bells of old England which were ring-
ing for Christmas worship and they
forbore to devote the day to labor.

"Shall our axes swing on this day of days
When the Lord of life was born?"

The tragedy of the Civil war trailed
its shadow over Longfellow's Christ-
mas verse and even his courageous
spirit faltered:

"I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men!"

And thought how, as the day had come,
The bellfairs of all Christendom
Had tolled along,
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men!"

Then echoes of the accursed cannon
thundering far away in the southland

Another favorite with the children is
"Christmas Day," by Ruth Ray-
mond.

"Now, chile, do hang yo' stockin's high
Dy' by de chimney place,
To Santa Claus, who ride in
wid him ole' reindeer,
Dat sile ole' gawd 'cause dey say,<
He lile de chilemen
An' bring dem gifts each Christmas day
Adress dem miles of snow.

"It manded dem from top to toe,
Dey' hole de tings yo' need,
One t'is garden rake and hoe,
De book yo' longs to read,
Wid sile ole' chilemen
Dat Santa Claus, who ride in
De tings yo' make yo' every day
An' dey' yo' happy so.

"Hang up yo' stockin's den an' rest
Flemish on one side and French on the
other."

"Belgian soldier, our beloved friend
and brother, we, your American
friends, greet you this Christmas day,
1918. How bravely you have endured
and how courageously you have fought
during four years of indescribable
hardship! But be of good cheer. Your
day of deliverance is drawing near.
To you, the angels' song, 'Glory to
God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men.' Jesus Christ
was born for you, dear friend, and if
today you will open to him the door of
your heart, he will enter in and im-
part to you eternal life."

Mr. and Mrs. Norton, graduate stu-
dents of the Moody Bible Institute of
Chicago, have labored so successfully
in the interest of the Belgian soldiers
since the summer of 1915 that the
queen of the Belgians has given re-
peated recognition to their work, and
the Belgian army authorities allowed
them access to the front line trenches.
Over 12,000 of the Belgian soldiers
have joined their 'League of the Holy
Scriptures' and their names are
among the most popular in the ranks.

Of the gifts distributed last year,
6,000 boxes went to Belgian soldiers in
German prison camps. A reply card
was included, and within a few months
the entire number of 6,000 had been
received, saying that copies of the Gos-
pel are being forwarded.

FOR SOLDIERS OF BELGIUM

Americans to Bring Christmas Cheer
to Every Man in Vallant
Army.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Norton, who
last year distributed 25,000 Christmas
boxes to the Belgian soldiers, with the
co-operation of the Belgian govern-
ment, have perfected plans for extend-
ing the Christmas cheer this year to
every soldier in the Belgian army of
120,000. The gift will consist of choco-
late, toilet soap and candles, furnished
at a total cost of \$40,000. A Christmas
greeting card will be included, bearing
the following inscription, printed in

pattern is cut in various sizes for dolls
ranging from 14 to 30 inches in length,
the proportions of your doll may be
quite different from the doll used in
cutting the original pattern. If the
clothes do not fit it is not a very diffi-
cult matter to make alterations in the
patterns.

You never need to allow any outlay
for materials for dolls' clothes, for
there are always enough pieces in your
work box, or a friend's work box, to
make all sorts of dainty garments.
There are sure to be odds and ends of
lace and insertion to use on the little
underwear and pieces of ribbon with
which the dresses can be trimmed.

The reason for this is the fact that
these 50 little girls are like all other
little girls in liking dolls that can be
dressed and undressed, and the first
thing they do on receiving their Christ-
mas dolls is to see how readily they may
be dressed and put to bed and then
dressed again.

In dressing dolls it is possible to buy
paper patterns for doll clothes. One
set, sold by a leading pattern concern,
consists of a cape with a hood, a jumper
dress and gump, a bathrobe and a
petticoat and drawers—all for ten
cents. The only trouble with this sort
of pattern is that it doesn't always fit
the doll you choose; in fact, it is by
the merest accident that the paper pat-
tern would fit the doll. Although the

BRIEF INFORMATION

England's prison population before
the war was 18,000; it is now 9,500.
Portable electric machinery has
been invented to screen coal and load
in wagons.

Of the 3,000, or more islands com-
prising the Philippines only about 400
are inhabited.

Adding an ounce of tamper to each
five gallons of gasoline he uses, an
English automobilist claims to effect a
fuel saving of 20 per cent.

The inventor of a policy with de-
pressions in its surface contends that
bells will not slip when it is used.

With a view to meeting eventually
the national debt, the Japanese
government will establish three
sheep farms early in the new year.

A few Japanese women have been
put on the cars of the Mino Electric
company because of the shortage of
men laborers, who have entered the
manufacturing activities. If these
women conductors prove satisfactory
more will be similarly employed.

GATHERED FACTS

The Emergency Fleet Corporation has
a girls' chorus, all employees,
with Miss Beatrice Eaton as leader.
The concrete motion picture theater 80
feet long and 18 feet high, has been
built in England.

The discovery in Sweden of a lost
bread-crumm from pre-historic times
in the time of the Vikings has disclosed
the fact that peas were cultivated in Eu-
rope more than 1,000 years ago.