

# Sing We Now of Christmas

**"God is here to stay."**

**John 1:1-5, 10-14**

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## **One Magical Day**

Christmas. Long ago my family visited friends in a nearby town on Christmas. A couple of their kids were my sister's and my age and, accordingly, they were our friends, too. Karen had Margie. I had Johnnie; and whenever we got together each of us had a playmate. But that one Christmas when we stopped by later in the day Karen had Margie; but Johnnie was not available. It was about the most boring two hours I can remember spending on a Christmas Day.

It turns out that Johnnie had been so excited the night before that he couldn't get to sleep. In fact, he didn't let his parents sleep. Every time the wind blew and rustled the brittle branches of the trees he was in their room: excited because he thought he heard the hoofs of the tiny reindeer on the roof. Now, later in the day, Johnnie was all tuckered out. He was up in his room exhausted, asleep; unable to come down and play with his new toys and his friend.

There had been just too much magic for one little boy to take. Like this is the only time out of the whole year you can expect magic to happen. You know the stories:

- Animals are given the power of speech
- Toys spring to life and have their adventures
- An old miser is taken by ghosts to his Christmases past, present and future.

All on this one day.

Christmas.

As if this is the one and only time that the ordinary and the sad can be interrupted by the wonder-full.

I wonder if that's why people pack so much effort into making this day exactly right: they search hard for the right gift to give and hope beyond hope that they get the gift they want; and they insist that the right traditions are practiced at just the right time. Is it all to ensure that the magic will happen? Like all of this is a spell that open-says-a-me's to open the door to wonder?

## The Miracle

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

This is *the* Christmas message. For all the captivating stories that tickle the imagination and delight us with possibilities beyond the possible: *this* is the story that is ripe with truth.

From the very beginning God intended to come here. From the start, God chose to give us life, save us from sad, ordinary, and sin-made prisons that cause violence, greed, and death. God chose not just to be the Creator. God chose to be our Savior.

From the very beginning.

And when Jesus was born, the heavens ripped open with his glory. Heaven has swallowed up the earth.

The Word became flesh, came to dwell among us so the angels sang and we have seen his glory. How can you contain yourself in the face of that? The angels were compelled. On Christmas...But, Christmas happened over 2000 years ago. Last night, today we observe it. Remember it. Practice it.

Because Christmas happened once-and-for-*all*. The magic is not just once a year. It's not like we had that one night, that one day, and that was it. It's not like we had that short lifetime and then he was gone. Easter saw to that.

The magic is not just once upon a time. The miracle is now.

Johnnie didn't have to stay up all night, like he was going to miss his one chance at magic if he were to drift off to sleep.

God's miracle is here to stay.