

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24 (morning)

Silent Night – Wonderful Night

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9 (NIV)

Suddenly snippets of lyrics, hymns or songs will pop into my head and I am scurrying to the many “sources” available to find the rest of the words and music. Times change, years pass, people come and go, but through it all, some things are still held constant. The words of Silent Night were written by Joseph Mohr in 1818. The music was written by Franz Grüber, Mohr’s schoolfriend. Can you even imagine how many times this song has been sung through the years in many, many languages since it first appeared?

When I lived in the high Arctic years ago we sang it in Inuktitut (language of the Inuit) during the Christmas services. I asked a friend to tell me a translation of the Inuktitut words. It was beautiful, but not exactly a direct translation of the English words. Here is what he said: “Wonderful night, baby Jesus now comes to us, from up there to our little world, wanting to save us. Wonderful night, a great light. Greater than all the stars. You give us great joy. Always shine on us.”

What a prayer to remember not just at Christmas but for every day. The congregation of my “down south” church now sings it in Inuktitut with me each Christmas. We sing it, knowing that others around the world are singing it too because of our faith and trust in God’s word, because of our hope of salvation and because of our love of Jesus.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son. We pray for wisdom and guidance through your holy Word, seeking only to serve you as “Thy will be done on earth”. Amen

Terry Jesudason (Salvation Army)
Former *On Eagle’s Wings* Governing Board Member
Trail, British Columbia