

## Open House At Christmas

Christmas here: Singing of a silent night, a holy night. Listen to story of young mother who bore first born child.

Confess as we get older find harder to capture mood. Copy to lose Jesus among cellophane. For this your mother sweated in the cold; for this you bled upon the tree - a yard of tinsel bought

bought and sold; a paper wreath. "And how we need Christmas Spirit. Some brave imaginative person would have invented it had there been none. But imitation has gone out. All invited to enter House of Christmas to an open house in the evening

Home shall now come  
To an older place than Eden  
And a taller town than Rome"  
Don't you accept the invitation?  
Open house being held. Father's House.

## 2 House of Childhood

Thank God for children - all children; our, yours, the neighbors. All children who want to trim trees, send messages, hang up stockings, sing carols etc.

Children especially invited to this open house. "No children". And it so easy to enter Christmas Home. Not inhibited by lack of imagination; not deflected by critical spirit.

And we adults - must become as children to enter. Simplicity of spirit; natural reaction to grace and love. Openmindedness and devoid of pride. Nothing artificial or pseudo here.

Spirit of simple childlike faith brought shepherds. They had a hope and heard angelic song. One now became as children. Small door Presbyterian Church. House of Childhood. House of Christmas to House of Childhood.

## II House of Joy - Started by Celestial Choir.

Festival of poetry and music and joy.  
The moods and emotions of Christmas  
have been fashioned into oratorio and  
carol. What a House Party is here!

Charles Wesley - "Hark, the Herald..." 250,000

Phillips Brooks - "O Little Town of..." 88

Handel - "The Messiah"

Luther - "Away in a Manger"

Howe - "O Come All ye Faithful"

Low Wallace - "Bow Star" (Chariot)

Van Dyke - "Other Wise Man"

Dickens - "A Christmas Carol"

All vied in doing homage to the  
Christ-child. House of Joy.

## III Open House for All

Real meaning of Christmas here -  
"God so loved the world - whosoever"  
Universal message - universal house.  
Christmas is truly "ecumenical" -  
transcends race, color, nationality.

What a wonderful thing could  
we make Christmas operative in  
every corner of world. To make  
angels' song a reality - "Gloria in  
excelsis deo, et in terra pax hominibus  
bonae voluntatis"

Set up a few committees. Send  
out invitations. To all - Japanese and  
Czechoslovak children - Nichollet. Negro.  
John L. Lewis. Bring in new day.

"copy"

We have been invited? Are we  
among the guests? Shall we find  
our way to Bethlehem - to House  
of Christmas? That is my prayer  
for you. To an open house...

To an open house in the evening  
Home shall men come,  
To an older place than Eden  
And a taller town than Rome.  
To the end of the way of the wandering star,  
To the things that cannot be and are,  
To the place where God was homeless  
And all men are at home.