

Carols & Readings for Choirs

First Reading - The Beginning Of The Story

In the beginning, Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. They had all that they needed, and there was only one rule in their lives. God had told them not to eat the fruit from one of the trees in the garden, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. So God said:

²² "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" ²³ So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. ²⁴ After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (*Genesis 3: v 22-24, NLT*)

But now there is another way. Jesus tells us He is "the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14: v 6)

(p. 10) O Little Town Of Bethlehem

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Second Reading - Prophecies Of Jesus Coming

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah told of his birth.

 $_{14}$...The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7, v.14 – NIV)

- ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
- ⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9, v 2, 6 & 7 – NIV)

(p. 16) Sussex Carol (On Christmas Night...)

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