

Round yon Virgin, Mother and  
Child! Holy Infant, so tender  
and mild,

Joseph Mohr, *Silent Night*



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“El Señor ya te ha dicho, oh hombre, en qué consiste lo bueno y qué es lo que él espera de ti: que hagas justicia, que seas fiel y leal y que obedezcas humildemente a tu Dios.” —Miqueas 6:8.

Saturday December 24, 2022

## Holy Simplicity

by Jan Kwiatkowski

*Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
—Joseph Mohr, Silent Night*

I was a church musician for seventeen years. For several of those years, the choir director and I worked simultaneously at two churches. On Sundays Bill would leave after communion at church A, drive to church B, while I directed the choir anthem, played the final hymn, and then headed to church B. Bill started the service at church B, and I arrived by the first reading, just in time to play the rest of the service. During Christmas and Easter, this arrangement got complicated. One very snowy Christmas Eve, our trips to church B were slower than either of us planned on. We almost hit each other at an intersection. True story.

Bill contacted the priest to let him know we would not be there in time to start the service. The priest had musical ability and was able to lead hymns without instrumental accompaniment. By the time we arrived at church B, hand-held candles illuminated the church and it was time to sing *Silent Night*. Following the quiet instrumental introduction voices began to sing. Time seemed to stop.

This familiar hymn, recalling images of tenderness, love, pure light, and peace, reminded Bill and me that our earnest Christmas preparations were small compared to the profoundly simple gift of God's perfect love.

**Making It Personal:** Which lyrics of *Silent Night* speak to you at this moment? How has your understanding of simplicity evolved since the first Sunday of Advent? If things don't go as planned for you today or tomorrow, how might you remain open to the unexpected ways in which God can still show up?

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**Rest**

# Christmas Eve

The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus – and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.

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