

Hymns'14.11.8 **THE SPLENDOR OF THE THRILLING SOUNDS**

"Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." Luke 2:13,14 CEB

The splendor of the thrilling sounds
proclaiming Jesus' birth,
announce in wondrous Christmas song
God's visit to our Earth.

In sacred concerts in the church,
we copy angels' praise.
Through trumpet, voice, and organ pipe
God's advent song is raised.

God's steadfast love embraced the world
that night in Christ the Lord,
and shepherds were the first know:
this Child would be adored.

His humble parents watched in awe
as wise men came to see
their little boy so weak and small
who came to save and free.

He came to stand with those in pain,
in sorrow or despair,
singing peace to those in strife
and off'ring loving care.

Come, let us trust this Child who came
to bring us life and joy,
then praise and serve, throughout our lives,
the Virgin's baby Boy.

Words: R. Frederick Crider ©2014 All rights reserved. Scripture: Luke 2

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Suggested Tune: Azmon Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829 (cf "O For A Thousand Tongues", #57 UMH)

(Author's note: This was written after participating in the 2014 Christmas concert featuring brass, choirs, and organ in the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore, MD)

For myst'ry is not bound by time
Nor limited by space,
Transforming life from day to day
With hope and loving grace.

No eye has seen no ear has heard
Love's final mystery
The human mind will fail to grasp
God's great eternity.

The things that wait to be,

Love's final mystery.

Reflections during the Holiday Brass Concert at the Cathedral of Mary our Queen 12/2/14

The experience of The Holy leaves us with wordless wonder

A state in which we know God exists and cares for us.

In music and in the silence between the notes,

In the words said and sung

The light of God, the breath of life

Eternity has now begun.

I found myself envisioning mother and dad listening to this music

Like they knew of it all along,

I felt close to God. That beauty and good and righteousness overpowered evil and darkness.

That God and heaven must exist, or how else could these wonders be inspired, begotten, created?

How else could a mere mortal like me be able to apprehend, and appreciate it, if it weren't for a God who wants me to know joy and happiness far beyond tools and trains and stock portfolios...?