

CHRISTMAS 2018

A Christmas Poem every year, the family now expects,
And FUN, it's been, to write, and write, and do it as I ought;
But now it's time to step aside, and take a needed rest,
And listen now, to someone else, who shares a worthy thought.

The story is this: In faraway Europe, in the country of Austria, in the village of Oberndorf, is a small memorial Christian chapel where the St. Nicolas Church once stood.

Mother and I were there in 1997 along with Jimmy Mellon, our 15 year-old grandson.

On our second visit in 2002, we took 16 year-old granddaughter Katie Vesper and her 13 year-old sister Sarah Vesper with us.

Standing there inside the chapel that can seat about a hundred or so, one sees the beautiful stained-glass windows that tell of a memorable event in the year 1818. Rev. Josef Mohr was the Assistant Pastor. On Christmas Eve, he and the choir director, Franz Gruber, sang the carol they had written, which today, 200 years later, Christians around the world are still singing. And when you have the unusual privilege of standing or sitting for a moment in that chapel, you are filled with an emotion you will never forget.

For it was there, in that same spot, that the story was told of the almost unbelievable, miraculous incarnation of God himself in the person of his Son Jesus Christ. He came to die for us, and the whole world, that we might be forgiven of our sin, and restored to fellowship with Him. That is the timeless and eternal message of Christmas and Easter combined.

Rev. Josef Mohr said it like this:

“Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.”

At this Christmas 2018, it is our prayer and our hope that each of you who read this, know Christ the Redeemer, as your personal Savior and Lord.

Pop Pop and Goggy

MERRY CHRISTMAS