

Joy to the world, the Lord has come.

Let's look at the birth narratives in Luke. The entire story is filed with overflowing **JOY!** Everyone is amazed, everyone is **joyful!** **Mary sings. Elizabeth sings. Zechariah sings. Angels sing. Shepherds sing.** It's almost an **ancient Broadway musical!**

This **Christmas** will be very **different** for all of us. But, how can **we, personally,** make a difference for **Christmas 2020?** Maybe by **smiling** at someone, a **phone call,** a **card,** a surprise. I read that life is **not** a **journey** to the grave with the intention of arriving in a **pretty** and **well-preserved body,** (How many of us have ever had that?) but rather to walk through those "pearly gates" with a totally **worn-out body,** thoroughly used up here on earth and shouting at the top of our voices, "**WOW, WHAT A RIDE!**". And, "**I made a difference!**"



Helen Keller once said, "**Christmas** is our own season to shine like the stars. If you are feeling **blessed** with family and friends, repay the blessing by **doing something for others.** Wear the **Christmas** spirit with your charming **smile.** Wear something **red** and spread your love around wherever you go., Give gifts of a **cheerful disposition, laughter, compliments, affection, listening and lots love with your Christmas cards.** In the economy of the heart, these gifts are **priceless.**

St. Pope John XXIII 's words can be challenging during the **pandemic** season, but can make a **difference:**

"Let your **inner glow** of light shine through your **eyes.** Make this season yours again and make your **Christmas** the **best** ever. May this Christmas time remind you of **God's love** because **Jesus is the reason for the season.** Sometimes it is **we** who must bring the light of His **love** to others."

So, what **gift** can we give to **Jesus** during this season of **love?** I think the **answer** is in this poem by English poet Christina Rossetti:

What can I give Him?
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him?
Give my heart.

Merry Christmas. You will be remembered in a **novena of Masses** which is being offered for the family and **friends** of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, **Our Lady of Peace Community.** New Year blessings .