

8-1-2013

A Creation Christmas

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Recommended Citation

Magness, Lee (2013) "A Creation Christmas," *Leaven*: Vol. 21: Iss. 3, Article 11.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven/vol21/iss3/11>

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A Creation Christmas

LEE MAGNESS

This reading moves back and forth from the birth of the natural world as reflected in Genesis to the birth of the co-creator, Jesus Christ, whose life reflects every aspect of creation. It serves as a reminder that at Christmas we celebrate not only the birth of the Christ but the coming of the Creator, in whom all things consist. Reader 1 reminds us of the acts of creation in Genesis 1. Reader 2 reminds us of the parallel events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Reader C, either a third reader or a choir or the congregation, proclaims the connection like a triumphant refrain.

1 ***In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.***

2 *In the end, the whole heaven heaved up high,
the starry host shone and shouted,
and the hurt earth heard—*

C ***the Firstborn of all creation had come!***

1 ***In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep.***

2 *In the end, the deep darkness of a sunless day,
the deeper darkness of a starless night,
nestled in and among, within and between them—*

C ***but Something stirred in the shadows.***

1 ***In the beginning, the Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.***

2 *In the end, the Spirit quickened a watery womb,
blessed the barren, prompted a prophet,
and stirred the sight of a seer—*

C ***the Spirit hovered over humans.***

1 ***In the beginning, God said, Let there be light, and there was light.***

2 *In the end, the light of all people, the true light was shining,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the light shines in the darkness—*

C ***and Christ will shine on you.***

1 ***In the beginning, God said, Let there be a dome, and he called it Sky.***
 2 *In the end, shepherds took cold comfort under the shelter of that sky,
 they heard heaven's heralds with their warm word,
 this will be a sign—sky sign, glory sign, son sign—*
 C ***and He will shepherd his people.***

1 ***In the beginning, God said, Let the dry land appear and bear plants.***
 2 *In the end, gold grew from the ground, sheep grazed on the grass,
 travelers traversed the dust, some compelled, some by choice,
 they laid him in a wooden manger on fragrant hay—*
 C ***the Rose of Sharon had bloomed.***

1 ***In the beginning, God said, Let there be lights in the dome of the sky.***
 2 *In the end, Mary limped and labored under a pale sun,
 Joseph wondered and woke to a merciless moon,
 magi wondered at the star that started their wandering—*
 C ***the Daystar had dawned.***

1 ***In the beginning, God said, Let birds fly across the dome of the sky.***
 2 *In the end, his very life was valued at a pair of pigeons,
 and by the time the king cast his net over the nesting village
 the foreigners and the family had flown the coop—*
 C ***the Dove had alighted.***

1 ***In the beginning, God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures.***
 2 *In the end, Mary may have mounted a donkey,
 ox and ass may have mooed while Mary moaned,
 and camels hauled the magi to the moving stable—*
 C ***the Lamb, no, the Lion, had come.***

1 ***In the beginning, God said, Let us make humankind in our image.***
 2 *In the end, she gave birth to her firstborn son,
 being born in human likeness, being found in human form,
 and they found a child, a child, a child—*
 C ***the Word became flesh.***

1 ***In the beginning, God rested from all the work he had done.***
 2 *In the end, they wrapped him and laid him to rest, in a manger,
 and the star rested over the place where the child was,
 and they knelt down and worshipped him—*
 C ***Alpha, Omega, first and last, Christ had come.***

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