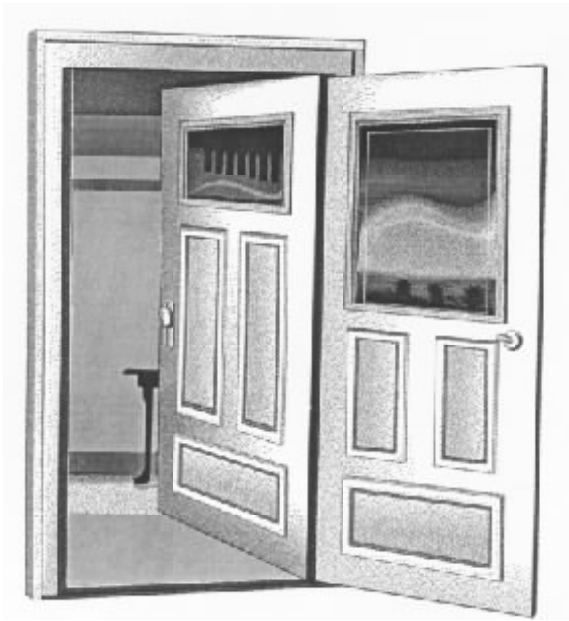



7

*If Anyone
Opens
The Door*





*If anyone hears my
voice and opens
the door,
I will come in and
eat with him
and he with me.*

Revelation 3:20

Only God

No one but God could make a plan
like for our Savior's birth
And have it orchestrated right
when He came down to earth.
The governor imposed a tax
that everyone must pay
So people were all hurrying
to get well on their way.

And Joseph led a donkey,
a lowly beast, you know,
To an Inn where they could spend the night
and then get up and go.
And Mary, who was great with child,
was anxious to lie down
And kinda' get a breather
in that sleepy little town.

To think the Inn was full that night
and with no place to go
They were allowed to spend the night
in a stable down below.
Of course you know the story well
that Christ was born that day
And Joseph filled a manger
with some nearby straw and hay.

*. . . and she gave birth to her first born,
a son. She wrapped him in clothes and
placed him in a manger because there was no
room for them in the Inn. Luke 2:6,7*



No one who stayed inside the Inn
had offered them their room,
It seems they were too busy
with their own stuff, I presume.
I really like that shepherds
were the first to make it there
Because a choir of angels sang
and told them when and where

They'd find the place where Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, was born,
And sure enough they found the place
on that first Christmas morn.
God didn't send his Son, you know,
to folks who reeked with fame,
He sent Him to the common folks
who'd be so glad He came.

So if you're rich or if you're poor,
and have an empty cup
Just give your heart to Jesus Christ.
He'd love to fill it up.

Zacchaeus

Sometimes I think of Zacchaeus
who climbed up in a tree
For he was just a little man
and Christ he could not see
Because the crowd of bigger folks
were walking in his way
And that is just exactly why
he climbed a tree that day.

I think its neat he ran ahead
and climbed a sycamore,
Apparently he'd never seen
how Jesus looked before.

Zacchaeus was a wealthy man
and was not liked a lot
For he collected taxes
cheating folks right on the spot.
It could be that he took off work
on this one special day
And had determined in his heart
he'd see the Lord some way.

And in my mind's eye I can see
him run that dusty trail
Then shimmy up the sycamore—
he'd see Christ without fail.



And sure enough when Jesus came
he called him by his name
And after he had met the Lord
he never was the same.

He said that he would give the poor
a half of all his stuff
And also added something more,
as if that weren't enough--
He said if he had cheated folks
he'd pay 'em back fourfold
But that is not the end of it
for after that we're told
That Jesus would have lunch with him,
He'd be his honored guest
And so this little man was changed
to one whose heart was blest.

Luke 19:1-10

Mary

If you've ever had a baby
 you no doubt had gone by car
And checked in at a hospital
 which wasn't very far.

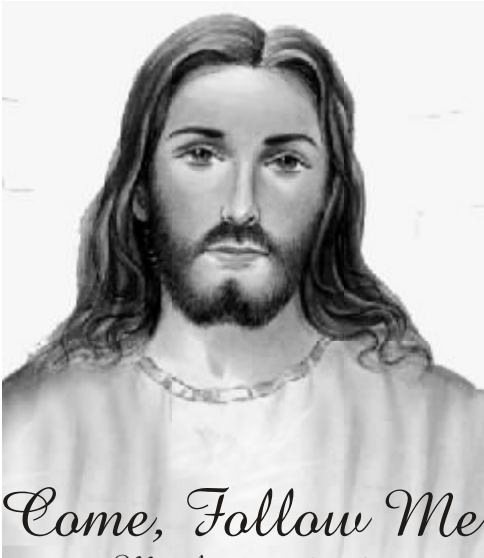
The doctor and the nurse in charge
 did the admission stuff
And put you in a nice clean bed
 and gave you meds enough
To help you through the labor pains
 until your child was born
And then you got to see your babe,
 though you were tired and worn.

I wonder if you've thought about
 how Mary, great with child
Could travel many weary miles
 and still be meek and mild
When they would come up to the Inn
 where she could get some rest
And find the place was all filled up,
 though Joseph did his best.

I wonder just what Mary thought—
do you think that she sighed
When she lay on a bed of straw, and
maybe even cried?
I doubt she had much stuff along to
make a cozy place—
She must have prayed to God a lot
to give her strength and grace.
Who ever thought this humble place
would welcome such a Guest
Who truly is the King of kings, the
Best of all the best.



Luke 2:4-7



Come, Follow Me

Matthew 4:18-20

I often think how Jesus called
His disciples here on earth,
He didn't question them and ask
Just how much they were worth,
Nor did he hand out questionnaires
With pages to fill out
And ask for several references
To check them out, no doubt.
He didn't discuss benefits;
There was no dotted line
Where if they measured up OK
A contract they would sign.
He didn't ask about their past
Nor for a resume
He simply said, "Come, follow Me,"
And it 's like that today.
Christ is still saying, "Follow Me,"
And if we hear His voice
And follow Him where e'er He leads
He'll make our hearts rejoice.

*Christ
Loved
Kids*



I wonder if you've thought about
why Christ loved children so.
Was it because their little hearts
have lots of love, you know?
They don't have stuff like sin and hate
stored up inside their heart
So they can kinda' be themselves
which really is quite smart.

Some older folks with lots of clout
may put on lots of airs,
But Jesus cuts right through that stuff
because He really cares.
Christ tells us in the Bible
that we should all become
Like children with their simple trust
and love for every one.

I'm sure the Lord likes simple faith
that has no fear or doubt
For He likes folks who trust in Him
right from the inside out.
So copy little children
in the love they shed abroad
For Jesus says to live that way
till we're at home with God.

Just As We Are

If you are out of work, my friend,
And need a job to do,
You may look several places
That you think appeal to you.

Of course they'll want a resume
Of where you worked before,
They'll also want an interview
When you walk through their door.

You've got to look quite classy
Just to meet the standards there,
And so you gussy up a bit,
Might even curl your hair.

So if you can impress the folks
Who work in personnel
It may be you will land a job
Because you look so well.

But that is not the way with God,
He takes us as we are,
We don't fill out a questionnaire
Though we're not up to par.



St. Peter will not ask us
For a lengthy interview,
God simply wants a humble heart
That He can make anew.

He takes the sick, the blind, the lame,
And those who cannot cope,
No matter if they're rich or poor
He offers them some hope.

He never leaves us as we are
If we give Him our heart,
He changes us from what we were
Right from the very start.

Still Speaking

God is still speaking, friend of mine,
He hasn't left us here
To travel on life's road alone—
in fact He's always near.
But if you want to hear Him
and see things that He has done
You've gotta' get your heart in tune
and not stay on the run.

God speaks to us through sunsets,
and through a gentle breeze,
He also speaks through flowers,
the singing birds, and trees.
The Bible says He's everywhere
so if you'd look a bit
You really might find it is true
if you'll just think on it.



Sometimes God speaks in special ways
that tells us of His power
When thunder rolls and lightning comes
and skies pour down a shower.
At other times we feel God speak
in quiet gentle ways
And somehow comes and fills our cup
with music and with praise.

Some folks will say there is no God
or that He's far away
And so they took off their list
and seldom ever pray.
But happy are the many folks
who feel God is their Friend
And hold to His unchanging Hand
until the very end.



My Kitchen Window

I like my kitchen windows
 where I can see outside.
It's fun to watch the neighbors
 when they go out for a ride.
Or maybe some will take a walk
 escorted by their dog
And some are really in good shape
 and find it fun to jog.

At times I see some other things—
 some birds go flying by
I guess they want some stuff to eat
 and so they really try.
Some butterflies might make the scene
 and add a touch of class,
A friendly neighbor might drop in.
 I'm glad they didn't pass.

The clouds intrigue me quite a bit—
 the white against the blue
And sunsets add great color
 and we enjoy that, too.
It blows my mind to wonder how
 God made the things He made
Including lots of flowers and trees
 for beauty and for shade.

Another thing I like to watch
 are lizards on the screen
They travel 90 miles an hour
 if you know what I mean.

Our God created everything
that's found on planet earth
He didn't make some junky stuff,
but made all things of worth.

Yes, I like my kitchen windows
so I can see outdoors--
It's much more interesting to me
than news of floods and wars.
So if you'd spend some worthwhile time
pull up your kitchen chair
And enjoy all the beauty
that is waiting for you there.



*The
Greatest*



Jesus

Whoever thought that
Jesus Christ
born in a stable dim
Would spend His life
in healing folks
if they believed in Him?



The common people loved Him much
and liked the words He spoke,
He spent a lot of time with them
though some were sick and broke.

Whoever thought this Son of God
who changed folks life so much
Would some day be hung on a cross
by some who felt His touch.
But even greater, who would think
that this unusual Man
Would change the world forever
as no other person can?

And now each time we write the date
it points to Jesus' birth,
For He's the greatest Person
who has lived on planet earth.

*Today in the City of David a Savior
has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord
Luke 2:11*

Unconditional Love



God's love is unconditional,
His heart is open wide
To any who'll believe in Him
and want His love inside.
His eyes are searching everywhere
on planet earth, you know,
For folks who want to serve Him here
and then to Heaven go.

There is no case too hard for Him,
no heart He cannot touch
If folks will give their heart to Him
and really love Him much.
God's love is unconditional,
but we must do our part
And tell Him we invite Him in
to live within our heart.

Just: "Follow Me"

When Christ called His disciples
He didn't tell them then
That he was making up a group
of very special men.
He didn't ask where they were born
or of their family tree,
He only said just two short words,
and that was "Follow Me."

He could have questioned every man
and learned a lot of stuff
But all He said were those two words
And that seemed to be enough.
We can complicate religion
with all our don'ts and do's
And kinda' fail to follow Christ
because of things we choose.

If we love God with all our heart,
our body, soul and mind
It truly is to follow Christ
and gives us peace of mind.
I really like the way that Christ
said simply "Follow Me"
And folks who do that very thing
are happy and set free.

*As he walked along, he saw
Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at
the tax collectors booth. "Follow
me" Jesus told him. And Levi
got up and followed him.*

Mark 2:14

