



IMMANUEL

MELANIE PENN

Love's Coming Down (Isaiah)
All Things Are Possible (Gabriel)
Great Things (Mary)
Gift of Love (Angel Chorus)
Immanuel (Shepherd)
Joy to the World
What Child Is This (Joseph)
Follow the Star (Magi)
Light the Way (Star of Bethlehem)
There is Room For You Here (Innkeeper)

Produced by Ben Shive

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Dearest listener,

In December 2016, I unexpectedly wrote a song from the perspective of one of the wise men who journeys to Bethlehem. I named the song “Follow the Star” and sang it at a Christmas show in New York City.

In the weeks that followed, I wrote more songs from the Christmas story. The perspectives were all in the first-person, about the angels and people who were there when Christ was born: a shepherd, Gabriel, Mary, the innkeeper, others. I sent the first demos to my long-time collaborator Ben Shive and said, “I think I’m writing a Christmas record?” The album came to life. We started recording in March 2017 and worked throughout the spring and summer. I wrote the last song of the collection in August.

These songs are about the first ones to hear the good news. They saw signs, had dreams, heard from angels, watched the stars, and they sang. Before these songs, I never thought about how the souls in the Christmas story were just ordinary people, living “normal” lives -- a young girl, a carpenter, a shepherd. Then they encountered the supernatural and their lives changed forever.

I didn’t plan to make a Christmas album. Even as I wrestled this project to the ground, and labored over these songs, I knew the project had come as a gift. May this collection be a part of your Christmas season. And may you know the miracle of a person called Immanuel, who is God with us.

Warmly,
Mel





Love's Coming Down (Isaiah)

These things will come to pass
A child will be born unto us at last
Love's coming down to Bethlehem

Oh listen, I'll cry out make straight the path
Oh hear me, I'll get loud make a way for the man
Love's coming down with a new law of the land

His name will be the Prince of Peace
His name will be the Prince of Peace

It's a cruel and hard age but there is a plan
No army, no flag that'll wave but peace we will have
Love's coming down, the Kingdom is at hand

He won't look like you thought that He would - no force, no crash
He'll say "do your enemy good" and "sell all you have"
And love will be around Him all the way to Jerusalem

His name will be the Prince of Peace
Almighty God and Father
His name will be the Prince of Peace
Almighty God and Father

He will teach, He will heal, He will say, "I AM"
You won't know what it means how to feel but your heart will expand
And He will go like a lamb

You'll think you know how it ends, all's lost, death wins
Just wait a couple of days He will rise again
And love will pour out to earth from heaven

His name will be the Prince of Peace
Almighty God and Father
His name will be the Prince of Peace
Almighty God and Father



All Things Are Possible (Gabriel)

Mary, full of grace, don't be afraid
God is with you, favored one
You will bear a son

All things are possible
Nothing's impossible
All things are possible

It's not what the mind conceives, daughter believe
You are covered by an angel's wing
He will be a king

All things are possible
Nothing's impossible
All things are possible

There will be flame
A light from a shadow
And there will be no end to His reign
Jesus will be His name

All things are possible
Nothing's impossible
All things are possible

Great Things (Mary)

Magnify Him, oh my soul
Glory be to God alone
Holy, holy is He

You will free and redeem the world
You have seen this servant girl
You said blessed, blessed is she

I will sing my song, sing my song

He has done, he has done great things
He has done, he has done great things for me

Oh my people, Israel
Your long-awaited help will come
From our God, the mighty one

I will sing my song, sing my song

He has done, he has done great things
He has done, he has done great things for me

All the lowly lifted up
All the hungry more than enough
Be born in me
Let your kingdom come

He has done, he has done great things
He has done, he has done great things for me







Gift of Love (Angel Chorus)

From on high we been waitin to tell ya
Look up, we got a band in the sky
We're the angel chorus, gonna break in to tell ya
The savior of all has arrived

It's not what you expect
Don't fear or fret
Go to Bethlehem

Oooh, it's a gift of love a gift of love
Believe it, a gift of love a gift of love
Receive it, a gift of love a gift of love

We got a song and we got glory to God
In the highest heights
Sing along, raise your voices to God
In the highest of heights

It's not what you expect
Don't fear or fret
Go to Bethlehem

Oooh, it's a gift of love a gift of love
Believe it, a gift of love a gift of love
Receive it, a gift of love a gift of love

Glory, glory to God in the highest
Glory, glory glory to God

Immanuel (Shepherd)

Angels sang over my head
But I'm just a shepherd boy
They said, "Don't be afraid,
Good news of comfort and joy we bring"

Let us adore Him, Immanuel

I was just watching a flock by night
When the sky opened up above me
They said "Go, this shall be a sign:
A baby with a mother kind"

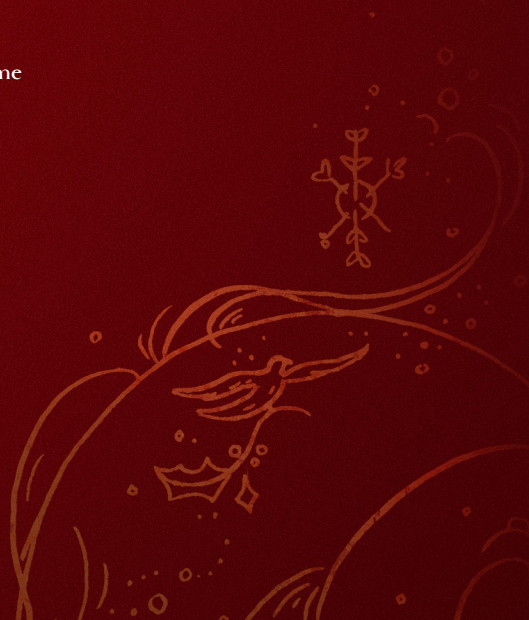
Let us adore Him
Come, let us adore Him
Immanuel

God with us, He enters in
God with us, our friend
Let us adore Him like they do in heaven

I've wandered far, I'm a field hand
But I heard the song and it's changing me
A rebel heart is all I have
But all I have I will bring

Let us adore Him
Come, let us adore Him
Immanuel

I was watching a flock by night
I was watching a flock by night
Keep watch
Keep watching





Joy to the World

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

What Child Is This? (Joseph)


I could show you how to drive a nail through a stone
I could show you how a carpenter builds a home
I've lived a quiet life, steady as I can
How am I the part of the greater plan?

I could show you every sign that appeared
The girl I love and the miracle that brought us here
By the light of a star, oh little town
What is this love that's come down?

What child is this who lay to rest
On Mary's lap asleep? Heavenly guest
Immanuel, your name will be
The angel told me in the dream
God with us, flesh and blood
What does this mean?

What's a soul to do, well I opened up my heart
History unfolding on this night, here in the dark
A cry rings out in a cattle stall
Tiny babe, Lord of all

What child is this who lay to rest
On Mary's lap asleep? Heavenly guest
Immanuel, your name will be
The angel told me in the dream
God with us, flesh and blood
What does this mean?







Follow The Star (Magi)

All of my life, I've been watching the sky
To tell me what'll happen when
I know the signs, how the stars align
There's a message I've been trying to get

Tonight, I can't shake the sight
So I'm on my way
Where will it lead, the star in the east?
I don't know but I'm watchin the heavens

Could it be, you're watching over me?
Shine on the darkest part
Yeah I think there's more than I can see
So tonight I will follow the star

How long will it take until I get to the place?
Or is the journey the reason for it all?
I don't feel very wise, will my gifts be right?
But I am watchin the road I am on

Could it be, you're watching over me?
Shine on the darkest part
Yeah I think there's more than I can see
So tonight I will follow the star

No wisdom or advice, no chart I could write
Would make a map of where we'll arrive
But through a desert I will go though I don't really know
There's a light up above as a guide

Could it be, you're watching over me?
Shine on the darkest part
Yeah I think there's more than I can see
So tonight I will follow the star
I will follow the star

Light The Way (Star of Bethlehem)

I'm gonna shine in a desert land
He'll have nowhere to lay His head
So I'll light the way
Over moonlit sand
Star of Bethlehem

I will light, I will light the way
To the cradle where He is laid
I will light, I will light the way
For the Savior of men born in Bethlehem

The light of the world before the stars began
He held the heavens in His hand
He shone down, called me by name
Said, "you're the star of Bethlehem"

I will light, I will light the way
To the cradle where He is laid
I will light, I will light the way
For the Savior of men born in Bethlehem

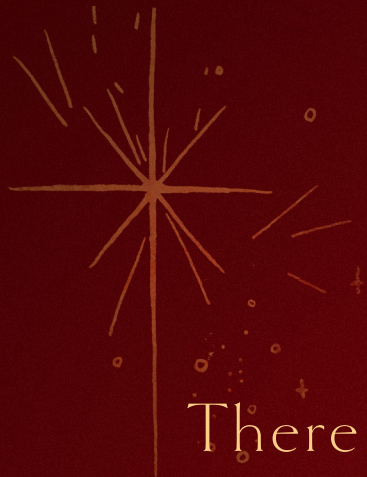
Lalala the baby cries, lalala the stars reply
Lalala the sky will bend for Him, the child in Bethlehem

I'll be right here until the morning comes
Until the saving is all done
I'll shine in the storm and in the garden that night
Til He rides up on a cloud high

I will light, I will light the way
To the cradle where He is laid
I will light, I will light the way
For the Savior of men born in Bethlehem

Lalala the sky will bend for Him, the child in Bethlehem





There Is Room For You Here (Innkeeper)

Oh our hearts are
Full of empty rooms and hallways
In our chests

Like innkeepers
We got many rules and always
Charge a guest

But if love knocks on the door at night
On a journey
And wants to come inside
Do we let it in?
Do we invite love to come near?
There is room for you here

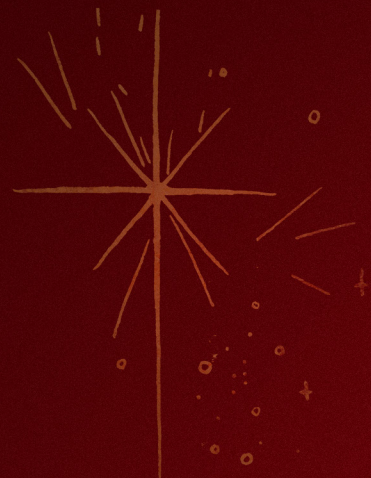
Weary travelers
With a child to be born soon
They saw a light inside

What do we do?
Do we turn away
Or open our hearts wide?

Love knocks on the door at night
On a journey
And wants to come inside
Do we let it in?
Do we invite love to come near?
There is room for you here







All songs recorded at The Beehive, Nashville, TN, 2017

Produced by Ben Shive

Engineered by Buckley Miller at The Trophy Room, Nashville, TN

Mixed by Sean Moffit at Yoda's Palace, Nashville, TN

Mastered by Joe Causey at Voyager Mastering, Baton Rouge, LA

Production assistance and reluctant background singing by Asher Petersen

Nathan Duggar — guitars

James Childs — guitars (on “Joseph’s Song”)

Ben Shive — keyboards, acoustic guitar, programming

James Gregory — bass

Will Sayles — drums

Emily Nelson — cello

Cassie Shudak — violin / viola

Charissa Hoffman — ukelele on “Immanuel”

Nickie Conley — guest vocalist on “Love’s Coming Down”

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