

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

I love Christmas carols but I must confess after hearing them from way before Thanksgiving to now I grow a little tired of them. Yet that weariness from being bombarded with carols from what seems like July until now goes away on Christmas Day. I want to hear them all on Christmas Day. Perhaps I realize that with the day finally here I won't hear those carols again for another year. So for one more day let the carols play!

One carol that I feel sums up the feel of Christmas is entitled, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." You might remember Andy Williams singing that or perhaps Amy Grant for the younger crowd. It is not a Christian carol but it does contain an apt line that says...

It's the most wonderful time of the year  
There'll be much mistltoeing  
And hearts will be glowing  
When love ones are near  
It's the most wonderful time  
Yes the most wonderful time  
Oh the most wonderful time  
Of the year

We Christians know what makes this day so wonderful, the celebration of the birth of Jesus our Savior. Isaiah says of Jesus, "He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." The angels proclaimed to the shepherds, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you."

But what does this mean for us today? It means that through Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection from the grave we can have life as God intended for us. It means we are not alone. It means we have someone to lead and guide us. It means despite the turmoil that might go on around us in the world we can have peace. It means we have an eternal future with Jesus in heaven. That is the meaning behind our celebration today. That is what makes this the most wonderful time of the year!

Our mission here at OUR CHURCH is, **state your mission or vision statement.** We want everyone to experience Christmas as we do. We want it truly to be the most wonderful time of the year for all. Every time you give here you help us achieve this. Week in and week out we are here impacting our city, state, nation and the world. We could not do this without your generosity.

So as we take up this Christmas offering give so that others might truly experience the wonder of Christmas, this most wonderful time of the year!