

ARTICLE FOR GAZETTE
December 13, 2007
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Orting United Methodist Church

*Church bells ring, are you listening?
Faces shine, eyes are glistening.
It's a beautiful night
When peace rises bright
Singing in a holy wonderland.*

*Gone away fear and terror—
In Jesus' love the world is fairer.
We're blessed as we give
To help others live
Bringing in a holy wonderland.*

*In the sanctuary there's a manger
To prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth
All are welcome, no one is a stranger
So come and worship God
For all you're worth.*

*Later on, be inspired
To follow God's deep desire
And face unafraid
New plans to be made
Living in a holy wonderland.*

Christmas is about creating a wonderland where we live in holy wonder and joyful expectation about what God is doing in the world. God is birthing newness every day if we but have eyes to see it. The church helps make that wonderland visible by the things we say and do, by the ways we pray and work and worship, by the ways we uphold each other in Christian community.

Through a faithful response to Jesus Christ, people help it happen:

- week after week, smiling in the face of difficult situations and moving on
- forgiving wrongs committed and looking for something good to come out of error
- waiting upon God in prayer for healing and hope; spreading joy and passion for life

Merry Christmas. May God bless you with holy wonder.