

WISHING YOU JOY AT CHRISTMAS  
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This ceremony should be used during the Good of the Order when the Associate Matron rises to ask the Worthy Matron if she and the officers may say a few words about this very important season which has now arrived.

DECORATION:

A large white star should stand on a small table or other support near the Worthy Matron. An effective star can be made by cutting one from heavy cardboard, covering it with netting, spraying with "snow" and adding sequins if additional glitter is desired.

ASSOCIATE MATRON: Christmas comes and with its  
coming

Joyous carols fill the air;  
Friendly faces smile their  
greetings,  
Happiness is everywhere.

How I love the gleaming sparkle  
Of the lights on Christmas  
trees;  
Shepherds, Wise Men, holly,  
candles--  
Christmas brings us all of these.

2 ADAM:

Christmas brings us, too, the  
story  
Of the birth of Mary's Son,  
How He came to be our Saviour,  
Bringing hope to everyone.

So for God's great loving-  
kindness,  
For His priceless gift to all,  
Hearts are turned in humble  
reverence  
To a manger and a stall.

3 RUTH:

Lonely shepherds kept their  
vigil  
On the plains of Bethlehem  
Where, so long before, Ruth  
gathered  
Culms of barley, stem by stem.

And I like to know that Jesus  
Came from lineage of Ruth,  
He who gave the world new  
courage,  
He who is the Way, the Truth.

4  
ESTHER:

Clad in white, the angels sang of  
Peace to earth and glad goodwill,  
And the joy that thrilled the  
    shepherds  
Cheers the hearts of all men still.

Once again, this Christmas  
    Season,  
Angels seem to hover near,  
Once again we hear the echo  
Of their message, sweet and  
    clear.

MARTHA:

Firesides glow and windows  
    glisten  
Trimmed with holly wreaths  
    and pine,  
Welcoming the glad arrival  
Of the Gift of Love Divine.

Somehow, hope and love shine  
    brighter  
Through the happy Christmas-  
    tide,  
And we find in fullest measure  
    Joys that through the year abide.

ELECTA:

Love is always in our Christmas  
And that love we gladly share  
As we give our gifts and greetings  
To our dear friends everywhere.

God's great love for all His people  
Gave us our first Christmas Day  
When the Saviour, long expected,  
Came to help us on our way.

CONDUCTRESS:

Christmas brings us, too, the  
    Wise Men  
Traveling slowly through the night,  
Searching for the new-born  
    Christ-child,  
Guided by a heavenly light.

As they gave their gifts in  
    worship  
To the Child of Bethlehem,  
Peace and joy and sweet  
    assurance  
Seemed to settle over them.



ASSOCIATE  
CONDUCTRESS:

Christmas music lifts our spirits  
As the Christmastime draws near,  
And we hear the carols tell us  
That the loving Christ is here.

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Christmas bells are ringing gaily  
And their happy notes proclaim  
Christmas greetings to all people  
In His blessed holy name.

WORTHY MATRON: You have told of many lovely things related to the Christmas season: the coming of our Lord, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angels with their songs of glory to God, and the peace and hope that came to the world. But to me the Star of Bethlehem is a part of Christmas that has a very special meaning. It was that Star which lighted the way of the Wise Men. Without that light they might never have found their destiny in Bethlehem.

It is that same Star which stands as a guide for us today so that we, of the Order of the Eastern Star, may find our way to Bethlehem and, finally, to that new Jerusalem. Let us faithfully follow the Star of the East so that each succeeding Christmas may find us blessed with even deeper contentment and happiness.

The Star of Bethlehem still shines  
Within the hearts of men,  
And in its light we make our way  
To Bethlehem again;  
So may its gentle, peaceful rays  
Shine on your path to bless  
Your Christmas Day and all your  
days  
With joy and happiness.

W. M. AND W. P. (together): A Merry, Happy, Blessed Christmas to you all!

The End!