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 ADAR:

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 to 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.
ESTHER:

Glad 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.

ELEKTRA:

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.

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!