

Dear Mission Partners,

Advent peace and Christmas joy to each of you! Even if you are not a musician, the music of your life can be a Christmas gift to the Christ Child as we celebrate his birth! Christmas has already been musically celebrated here at Immaculata with a beautiful Carol Night and a Sunday afternoon Christmas Concert.



My early years as an IU student found me in the music department, working very hard at practicing the piano and memorizing my “circle of fifths”. Years later, someone gave me a flute and from then on, flute was my instrument of choice. Perhaps that is why this little Christmas fable holds a special message!

Once upon a time, there was a tall reed growing near a creek. The reed flourished and basked in the beauty of its natural habitat. After a while, the reed began to turn brown and snapped off, landing flat on the ground. A few days later, a young man saw the reed and picked it up as he walked by.

He put it in his backpack and didn’t give it much thought. It was the reed’s first experience of total darkness, and it longed for the light. Then one day, the young man took the reed out of his bag and began to trim it with his pocketknife. He hollowed out the inside and began to cut some holes into it. The reed felt the sharp pain that this treatment caused. But soon the little reed was put into the backpack again.

Then an extraordinary day arrived, and the young man took out the reed and joined a small group of shepherds in the hills around Bethlehem. There was excitement in the air. Together they walked into a small cave on the edge of town. Instead of the pain of the knife, the reed felt the gentle touch as the young man lifted it tenderly to his lips and blew into it in such a way as to make a beautiful melody come forth.

As the reed looked down, it saw a young mother and her infant lying in a manger. What a thrill for the reed to be part of this scene and add to the beauty with a sweet-sounding lullaby the young man played through it!

How about us? Even though we may not be able to play an instrument, we can still bring music to the Christ Child with our welcome, and the love that we bring to our prayer and to our family and friends in this Christmas season!

May you celebrate the true meaning of the Incarnate One all during the holidays! Merry Christmas to you and to all your loved ones!

