

23rd December 2021

Hush

**“But with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the angels’ hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And warring humankind hears not the love-song which they bring;
Oh, hush the noise and still the strife to hear the angels sing.”**

Edmund Hamilton Sears, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Edmund Sears wrote the words of “It Came Upon a Midnight” Clear” in the middle of the 19th century. The Napoleonic Wars, the Industrial Revolution, Victorian Society’s struggles with morality, would all have been in his mind. He looked at the world and saw its brokenness. He looked at the message enshrined in the songs of the Christmas angels, and he saw hope – if only we would “hush the noise and still the strife” and listen to the message.

When I wrote a contemporary parable, “The Christmas Project”*, for *Welcoming Each Wonder*, I took Sears’ theme and located it in a project completed by Zac’s dad, who’d created a wonderful Nativity Tableau in his garden shed out of junk that would otherwise have been thrown away.

What was discarded had been used. What was broken had its place. What was useless had a new life. A parable for every Christmas? I hope so. The message of the angels’ song? If only we were prepared to hear it ...

*A broken world,
picked up, examined, ready to be thrown away;
but taken, and reformed, and made whole again.*

*A broken hope,
dismissed, cried over, ready to be cursed;
but taken, and reclothed, and offered a new beginning.*

*A broken soul,
blackened, ruined, ready to be rejected
but taken, and loved, and nurtured into a new possibility.*

*A broken love,
useless, failed, ready to be discarded;
but taken, and restored, and beautifully transformed.*

A prayer for today

*Lord, where my world is broken, may your Love bring restoration.
Where my hopes and dreams are broken, may I be mended by your healing touch.
Where my faith is broken, may I be embraced by the wings of your angels. Amen*

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>

* See: “Welcoming Each Wonder” by Tom Gordon – www.ionabooks.com