



DIAKONIA PRAYER LETTER DECEMBER 2018

Writing this it is still advent, the time of waiting, waiting for a baby boy to be born. Advent is also a time of connection, the connection between the baby that was born in Bethlehem and the man that was hung on a cross in Jerusalem some more than thirty years later.

In September I was able to join the conference for deacons in the Anglian Church of Southern Africa. It was a joy to be there, to meet a lot of dedicated deacons and diaconal workers and to be acquainted with all the good work they are doing. The theme for the conference was “From the altar to the street”.

That is a good theme for diaconal work, it is the diaconal move. We start at the altar, always, getting our call there, our inauguration, the blessing and the strength. But we do not remain at the altar, we go out; into the church, into the society, on the streets. That is where we are fulfilling our duties.

The baby boy that was born, Jesus, was born into a quite small setting, his mother, his stepfather, some shepherds and some animals. His call was not to remain in this setting, but to go out, walking the country roads, meeting the people. And his fulfilment on the cross was done in full public with the whole of Jerusalem watching. His message was for everyone and to everyone. Jesus, our role model, also in the diaconal move.

Star-Child, earth-Child,
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,

Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child
no one wants to know,

Grown child, old child,
mem'ry full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears,

Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child,
knowing joy in store,

Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine,

Refrain: This year, this year,
 let the day arrive
 when Christmas comes for everyone,
 everyone alive!

Shirley E. Murray

Rev Marianne Uri Øverland, DRAE Regional President

Star-Child

CHRISTMAS

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1 Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God, love Child,
 2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,
 3 Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years, sad child,
 4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,
 5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -

Refrain

Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod:
 used child no one wants to know:
 lost child, sto - ry told in tears: This year, this year let the day ar -
 faith child know - ing joy in store:
 earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

rive when Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931 -)
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STAR-CHILD
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