

The Church bell tolls twelve strokes. The Choir sing Carol No. 2
Reader enters during last verse. Reads Is. 2, v. 2 - 4.

Reader: The years come and go, the ages pass, man gropes on feeling for the better time that seems so far yet might be near if we could only understand the meaning of these words. Strife and conflict between nations, warfare unrestrained and even between the common folk there seems no rest. Bickerings and quarrels, misunderstanding and backbiting, people living without thought of generosity towards their neighbours; why is it so (He reads again silently)

Group of children enter singing "On Xmas night all Christians sing" they form a ring. Reader advances with open book in his hand. Children cease when they see him.

1 Child: Oh Sir! We crave your pardon far be it from us to disturb your study -

Lector: Never fear, I was listening to your song, where did you learn it?

2nd Child: We learnt it in our home, our mother sang it.

Lector: Sing me that song again.

All: Right gladly will we (they sing 2nd verse as above)

Lector (rising) Your words mean much but who today will understand the truth they tell. The poverty of him who came demands a sacrifice from those who own the good things of God's earth which He decreed should be given in equal distribution to the Sons of Earth.

1st Child: How can that be?

Lector: The Prophet tells us ~~the~~ fullness of God's earth shall be shared by all alike, not held in ransome by the few while thousands live in poverty and want.

1st Child: Can God change the mind and heart of man that they will cease in selfishness to own His gifts, and so bring happiness where now is sadness?

Lector: Yea truly, man does not understand the reason for his life on God's good earth.

2nd Child: Sir, is it not in friendliness to live?

Lector: Yea, but friendship is a fellow feeling for each other in every kind of want. To find our happiness in the joy and happiness of others and this means sacrifice, which is, to give up striving to compete one against the other for the fundamental needs of life.

1st Child: How can this change take place? Has not the world gone on for long in this same way?

Lector: For long enough, dear Child. The change must come. The purpose that God has for us cannot be stayed by our indifference to his plan and method. If we resist, refusing the chance and opportunity He gives, the consequence is ours - as saith the Prophet.

3rd Child: You do not explain God's plan - in life each worketh for himself and yet you say this means confusion, poverty, starvation - tell us how can this be altered?

Lector: What was that song you sang when first we met?

3rd Child: The words we sang and the tune we danced to?

Lector: Yes.