

The Origin of the Christmas Tree
By James Bennett

I just stand and stare,
Thru' the cold night air,
With the snow just up passed my knees.
What the good earth yields,
Are now barren fields,
That are framed by brown, empty trees.

As the sunlight fades,
Into ev'ning shades,
As the moon appears in the sky,
The dark shadows grow
Smoothed by fallen snow
There is nothing to catch my eye.

As I gaze afar,
An awaking star,
Draws my eyes to something I missed.
From these twinkling rays
Glist'ning thru' the haze
Was a view I could not resist.

I trudge nearer by,
And more clearly eye,
All alone on this life-less land,
With a healthy sheen,
Stood an evergreen,
That conveys to me what God planned.

Such a green so bold,
That withstands all cold,
Shows a promise from God above.
It was planted, so,
In this world below,
That we all could know of His love.

In the bleakest night,
God's sustaining might,
Provided a tree for us:
In a stable bay,
Atop manger hay,
God bestowed His Son with no fuss.



Would all mortals see,
That on bended knee,
God cradled the earth with a King?
Would this life-less earth,
See Christ's promised birth
So their Winter could turn to Spring?

They ignored God's plan,
And forsook God's Man,
Overlooking His presence here.
But with arms held wide,
Like these limbs beside,
Jesus called to gather them near.

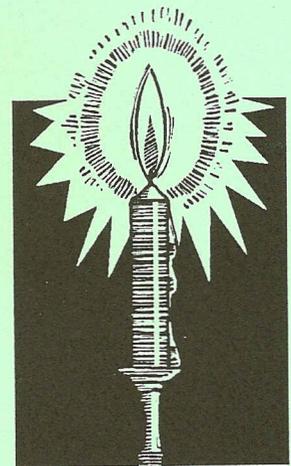
This rare tree of grace
Able put in place
This whole image before my eyes.
To capture the sight,
And to spread its light,
Only one plan could I devise.

I'd take it inside,
Where my kin reside,
And recall the night of His birth.
I'd place on each limb,
Reminders of Him,
So my fam'ly could know of His worth.

In my house so bright
In the window light
I'd invite those outside to see.
In my heart so bright,
Tho' in dead of night,
May His Light show them Christ in me.

Christmas 2000

Merry Christmas!



We thank God for each of you. You are in our prayers and in our hearts. You are our family. From our family to your family, through the Christ who has made us one, have a blessed and joyous Christmas!

With our love,
Jini, Martha, Tim, Natalie