

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My Hope Is Built #368
Easter People, Raise Your Voices #304
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me #361
Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart #160
Your Love, O God #120

Come, Christians, Join to Sing #158
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing #240
Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy #235
I Love to Tell the Story #156
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling #348
T'is So Sweet to Trust in Jesus #462
More Love to Thee, O Christ #453
Amazing Grace #378
Silent Night, Holy Night #239

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Ah yes, there are many hymns found in our Church Hymnal, of those hymns many may be called "**CLASSICS**" or at least "**TRADITIONAL**" hymns. Another way of saying "**TRADITIONAL**" is to say that these may be among the hymns we grew up with.

Many but not all of the hymns above are for me what I would call "**TRADITIONAL**" hymns!!! However, not all of the above hymns are "**TRADITIONAL**" for me, because I was trying to work out the words **MERRY CHRISTMAS** from Hymn Titles.

Speaking of "**CHRISTMAS**" there are many different "**TRADITIONS**" in connection with "**CHRISTMAS**" we may or may not follow within our families!!!

Among the many "**CHRISTMAS**" "**TRADITIONS**" we may be aware of: the Shopping Mall Santa Claus, the very famous Christmas Tree, Christmas Decorations, with a big shout out to those famous Christmas Lights, Christmas Cards, Christmas Dinners, Christmas Travel, Christmas Carolers and Carols, and of course those o so very famous Christmas Gifts!!!

Now, as wonderful as these old and new "**CHRISTMAS**" "**TRADITIONS**" can be, be they hymns or otherwise, something beautiful may become "**LOST**" in our celebration of a "Very Merry **CHRISTmas**"!!!

"**CHRISTMAS**" is meant to be focused on a celebration of the **CHRIST CHILD'S** birth regardless, yes regardless of our many and various wonderful "**TRADITIONS**"!!!

Ah yes, a "**Baby Boy Born in Bethlehem**" a celebration of the "**CHRIST**" in "**CHRISTmas**"!!!

BE-----ready

BE-----open

BE-----hopeful

BE-----filled with the wonder of God's gracious love!!!

"MERRY CHRISTmas"

Love in Christ,
Pastor Dana