



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a poem after his son was injured in the Civil War. It was later put to music and has become a classic Christmas carol. Although it was written over 100 years ago, It's message is very fitting for today.



*I heard the bells on [Christmas](#) day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

We all enjoy the Christmas season: hearing the music, seeing the lights, tasting the treats. It never gets old, and, at least at our house, it turns us all into children. We love to decorate and watch Christmas movies and bake cookies and do all those things.

*I thought, as now this day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rung so long the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

We all share a love of music. Because of this we are involved in 5 different Christmas programs: two for school, two for church, and Noah's piano recital. So Christmas songs can be heard ringing from our house almost every day.

*And in despair, I bowed my head,
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men"*

Things look good from our little corner of the world, but we are bombarded with letters asking for money for needy children and families, both in our country and around the world. We also hear requests for prayer each Sunday for lost jobs and health issues. And I don't know a family who is not affected in one way or another by the military.

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep,
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."*

Despite all this, we must remember that this is a time for Joy and Hope. God's most precious gift —His Son— was given to us! Jesus was born to die for our sins in fulfillment of the scriptures. And we can never grasp the blessings that God has stored up for those who believe on Him!

So this at this time we wish you the Joy of Christmas, God's Peace in your hearts, and the Hope of a blessed tomorrow. God never fails!!!

Love the Fladie Family

