

"Et in terra"
[Nunc. de Minuit
Carpentis]

"And on earth peace to men of goodwill"

Peace, the message of angels at the birth of Christ, the gift of His coming. The Christmas message still, and the wish of a new year beginning. We say "Happy New Year" often enough these few days, to friends and strangers alike — and I also greet you today in this first 1975 Midday Prayer of mine with a wish for happiness, prosperity, joy, grace and peace in the year ahead of us. We don't know what the year will bring to each of us personally: but for our city & community in HK, for the world at large, the signs of the times seem to be gloomy enough — there's hardly an optimist among the economic, political, social commentators or forecasters. There's talk of war being inevitable in the Middle East, of starvation and hunger, of depression and unemployment: hardly signs for a "happy" 1975. Yet if everyone who says "happy new year" really meant it and acted on their own goodwill, what a difference there could be: if peoples & nations would really say to each other, in genuine goodwill and concern "happy new year".... Alas it seems we don't act that way, and national, party, group or personal advantage overcomes the concern for others' happiness, prosperity, or peace. We listen each year to a message of peace — and peace seems to evade us. Could we not today try to understand that peace, happiness, in the world and in our own lives does begin in our own hearts — where we do or do not make room for others & their needs, for Christ who comes among us to be born anew where there's room for Him. He is a child of our world, and of our hearts, as at Bethlehem He was Mary's

MUSIC: Mary's Boy Child PRAYERS

RHX
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In the songs of Christmas-time, may the joy & peace of Christ come to you this year & to everyone you greet & love MUSIC Honegger: Christmas Cantata [from Stille Nacht]

You've been listening to part of Honegger's Christmas Cantata