

A DREAM

In 1950,
Ed McCurdy sang, “Last
night I had the strangest dream
I never dreamed before. I dreamed the
world had all agreed to put an end to war.”

This American folk singer’s dream of universal
peace reflected the hope of humanity, which at that

time was under the threat of nuclear war, caught in the throes of the Korean conflict and preparing for
combat in Vietnam. The song quickly became the manifesto of pacifists throughout the world.

Many centuries earlier, the prophet Isaiah had declared: “See, darkness covers the earth, and thick
clouds cover the peoples. But upon you, the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.”

The dream of human beings is the same as God’s dream, and it has but one name: peace. But our ways
of reaching it are different. Human beings use strength, while God uses weakness.

So when will Isaiah’s prophecy be fulfilled? When Jerusalem is inhabited by peoples finally reconciled
with one another? But all we see around us is destruction, war, hate, the clash of civilizations that think
they are bearers of liberation but which only succeed in bringing horror: division within families, within
the workplace, within the Church itself. The human heart is split; it is filled with malice and animosity.
When will you liberate it, Lord?

Meanwhile, three people from far away reach their destination, guided by a star that had pointed out
the route to them. These sumptuously-dressed personages climb off their camels and, filled with joy,
enter the grotto. Prostrating themselves in adoration before the newborn King, they offer him their pre-
cious gifts.



Prayer

Lord, the time will come
when all the people represented by these Wise Men
will hasten to the City of Peace
to kneel before this Child-King,
whose blood will heal every division.
Lord, the day will come when the Kingdom of God
foretold by the prophets of Israel
will be brought to completion.
That Kingdom, Lord, is already in our midst
but we can’t see it
because our little King has chosen to reign
according to the logic of the cross.
Amen.

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