

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,"
Longfellow's words beautifully say.
When in despair, he bowed his head,
"There is no peace on Earth," he said.

I can feel his grief over loss and pain,
Praying for hope to return again.
Hope does return when he hears them sing,
In unison, Christmas bells ring.

"Then rang the bells more loud and deep,
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!"
These words well written remind me still,
God loves me dearly, and always will.

I truly believe "It's a Wonderful Life"
Despite the trials, worry and strife.
The difference is how we choose to see,
Through judging eyes or empathy?

Like George Bailey, I've hoped for more,
But not for things bought in a store.
Always so sure new adventures await,
But needed at home, sealing my fate.

Just like George, I questioned my worth.
Would life be better without me on Earth?
But by God's grace, my heart open wide,
He's proved I'm valued, He dwells inside.

At times, I desire to turn back the page,
To a simpler time; now showing my age.
"A Charlie Brown Christmas" on TV each year,
A sweet memory, when my siblings were here.

On the floor in our jammies, excited to see,
Snoopy decorate his house, the Grinch steal the tree.
Santa and Rudolph, Burl Ives made from snow,
Yukon Cornelius, when he shouted, "Land Ho!"

Christmas with Conniff, songs stuck in my head.
Enduring Christmas Eve, lying awake in my bed.
But oh, Christmas morning, not a lovelier sight.
New toys, the wrapping, Christmas tree lights.

Memories of Christmas, different for each one.
But remember Jesus, God's only Son.
The seasons' bustle often makes us forget,
God's greatest gift has not arrived yet.

We'll soon hear the trump, the sky will unfold.
In a flash we'll be there, on streets made of gold.
No more tears or pain; all will be made new!
Jesus **IS** Christmas! Christmas blessings to you.

May you find joy and peace this Christmas.
Blessings,

Lisa Jo

