

Still, Still, Still



I love this carol, and I'm so glad it's returning to the song books of the church. I hope it will become a favorite each December.

"Still" is a word that can go either way when you consider this text: the baby Jesus is still – that is, he is tranquil, unmoving, at rest – and he still is – he remains for all time. This may be a stretch, but I've always 'gone there' on this text.

Here are three Webster's Dictionary definitions for the word "still" that relate to this carol:

Adjective – motionless, calm, tranquil

Adverb – always, continually

Verb – to calm, to quiet, to allay.

If you think about it, all three of these have Christological implications:

Jesus has a calm, tranquil, immovable (in a good way!) image.

Jesus is still the same: as he was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

Jesus quiets us, allays our fears, *stills* us – as he did the sea in Matthew 8:23–27.

When we glance at this carol title on the page, maybe our prayer could be something like this:

Lord Jesus, you *still* bring your quietness into our lives, and for that we are *still* grateful. *Still* our hearts.
Amen.

© 2010 R. G. Huff