



*An Advent
wrapped in Love.*

A Christmas Memory

By Laurie St. Gean

My mother learned to play all types of instruments as a child, but my favorite was the harmonica; maybe because it was so non-traditional! Yes, music was a big part of my family and my mother saw to it that her three daughters studied and learn to play an instrument as well. Growing up music was in the air and part of our family life.

My earliest memories of Christmas always include music. As a child, I looked forward to Christmas with anticipation of music programs at school, singing in the church choir and our annual Christmas Caroling get together with friends and family.

Each year, my sisters and I would get on the phone and invite our friends and their families for our caroling outing. We would prepare the music and of course bake cookies. We would all meet at our house, warm-up singing a few carols and then set off in our warm coats, flashlights, and music in hand.

We would go house by house ringing doorbells. When the door opened, we would burst out in song, singing such favorites as "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Away in the Manger," and "Angels we Have Heard on High." Other people in the house would hear what was happening and before we finished, they were usually singing right along with us. There is something that happens when voices are joined together in song. Music in the air just does not stay in the air; it heads straight for the heart warmed with feelings of love and good will.

As we approached my house at the end of the evening, my mom would invite the group in for hot chocolate and delicious cookies that we had baked. Good conversation, laughter, the fragrance of our Christmas tree filled our living room. And most important we could feel God's love and presence that binds us together.

Prayer:

Gracious and Loving God,

Thank you for the grace given through Jesus Christ. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for the gift of music. Put new songs in our mouths to sing praise to you each and every day so the world can know you. We pray that your light will guide our steps and fill our hearts with hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

