

**Welcome to Our World** is a well-known original song by Chris Rice that was made popular by a recording by Michael W. Smith. The text is written from the perspective of an unknown observer present in the stable near the time of Christ's birth. Accordingly, it focuses specifically on the humanity of Christ, noting all the contradictions of an all-powerful God taking the form of a fragile baby. This new arrangement intertwines the song with portions of the beloved carol, "Silent Night," and includes options for children's choir, child soloist, and congregational participation. The piece is suitable for the entirety of the Advent/Christmas season and is specifically well-suited for Christmas Eve/candlelight services. The main Scriptural theme is Christ's incarnation and humanity (Luke 1:35; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:14). The piece also discusses redemption (Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:7) and touches briefly on Christ's suffering (Acts 26:23).

**Joey Hoelscher**, a native of Kansas City, Missouri, is a multi-talented musician, educator, and composer. He received a Bachelor of Music in voice performance and a Master of Music in church music composition from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. As a graduate assistant there, he taught private voice and undergraduate music theory. Prior to his graduate studies, he traveled for three years as a singer, composer, string bass player, and sound engineer with the Steve Pettit Evangelistic Team. His wide range of experiences in this itinerant local church ministry gave him insight into local church music needs, which influences his compositional style.

Joey studied composition with Dan Forrest and Joan Pinkston. Joey is the winner of the 2012 Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Commission Competition, a member of ASCAP, and a commissioned composer with sacred choral and instrumental works in the catalogs of several music publishers. He remains active in choral music at his church and with the Kivertree Singers.

Joey lives and works in Greenville with his wife, Jennifer.

# WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

3

## with "Silent Night"

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied, with optional child soloist, children's choir and congregation\*

Arranged by  
**JOEY HOELSCHER** (ASCAP)

Words and Music by  
**CHRIS RICE**

Softly, like a lullaby (♩ = ca. 76-80)

ACCOMP.

*p*

5 \*\*CHILD SOLO (or CHILDREN'S CHOIR)

7

*mp*

Tears are fall - ing, hearts are break - ing,

*mp*

9

How we need to hear from God.

You've been prom - ised;

\* To purchase a full-length performance recording (42911) of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads).

\*\*Solo may also be sung by a light-voiced woman or a small female ensemble.

12

we've been wait - ing. Wel - come, Ho - ly Child.

15

Wel - come Ho - ly Child. *and solo*

18

SOPRANO / ALTO

TENOR / BASS

*mp*

Hope that You don't mind our man - ger. How I wish we would have

*mp*

21

*mp*

Wish we would have known; a - wait - ed Ho - ly Strang - er,  
known; But long a - wait - ed Ho - ly Strang - er,

24

Make Your-self \_\_\_\_\_ at home. Please, make Your-self \_\_\_\_\_ at home.

28

32

*mf*

Musical notation for the first system, vocal line.

Bring Your peace in - to our vio - lence. Bid our hun - gry souls be filled.

*mf*

Musical notation for the second system, vocal line.

*mp*

Musical notation for the first system, piano accompaniment.

36

*sub. p*

Musical notation for the second system, vocal line.

Word now break - ing heav - en's si - lence. Wel - come to \_\_\_\_ our

*sub. p*

Musical notation for the third system, vocal line.

Wel - come to our

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment in the second system.

*pp*

*p*

40

*mp*

*accel.*

Musical notation for the third system, vocal line.

world. Wel - come to \_\_\_\_ our world. \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

Musical notation for the fourth system, vocal line.

*mp*

*accel.*

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment in the third system.



Quicker (♩ = ca. 82-86)

44 \*CHILDREN'S CHOIR (and opt. CONGREGATION)

\*\* *mp*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night,

SOPRANO / ALTO

*pp*

Ah,

TENOR / BASS

*pp*

44 Quicker (♩ = ca. 82-86)

*espressivo*

48

All is calm, all is bright

*cresc. poco a poco*

ah,

ah,

*cresc. poco a poco*

48

\*Note: If children's choir is unavailable, a few sopranos should sing the children's choir part.

\*\*Silent Night, Holy Night, words by Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), music by Franz Grüber (1787-1863)

52

*cresc. poco a poco*

'Round yon vir - gin moth - er and Child,

ah.

52

*cresc. poco a poco*

56

Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild.

56

60

*mf*

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace;

*mp*

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

*mp*

60

*mf*

64

*mp*

*end opt. congregation*

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

*pp*

\*Or hum.

*pp*

64

*p*

\*Or hum.



SOPRANO / ALTO

70 Slower (♩ = ca. 82)

*mp*

68

*rit.*

TENOR / BASS

Frag-ile fin - ger sent to heal us,

Slower (♩ = ca. 82)

*rit.* *mf* *mp*

72

Ten - der brow pre-pared for thorn,

tin - ny heart, whose

*mp*

75

blood will save us un - to us \_\_\_\_\_ is born;

un - to us \_\_\_\_\_ is

un - to us is

*mf* *mp* *mp* *8va*

79 CHILDREN'S CHOIR *mp* **80**

So wrap our in - jured flesh a - round You.

SOPRANO / ALTO *p*

born. \*So wrap our in - jured flesh a - round You.

TENOR / BASS

79 *p* **80** *pp*

82 *mf*

Breathe our air and walk our sod. Rob our sin, and

*mp*

Breathe our air and walk our sod. Rob our sin, and

*mp*

82 *mp*

\*Cued notes may be sung by a few light voices, if needed.

85

*cresc. poco a poco non rit.*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

make us ho - ly, \_\_\_\_\_

Per-fect Son \_\_\_\_\_ of God,

*cresc. poco a poco non rit.*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

make us ho - ly, \_\_\_\_\_

Per-fect Son \_\_\_\_\_ of God, \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc. poco a poco*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

85

*non dim.*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*non rit.*

Piano accompaniment musical staff with notes and rests.

89

*accel.*

*end children's choir*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

per - fect Son \_\_\_\_\_ of God. \_\_\_\_\_

*accel.*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

per - fect Son \_\_\_\_\_ of God, Son of God. \_\_\_\_\_

Musical staff with notes and rests.

89

*accel.*

Piano accompaniment musical staff with notes and rests.



92 With more motion (♩ = ca. 86-88)

S.A. *mf*

With the an - gels let us sing,

T.B. *mf*

With more motion (♩ = ca. 86-88)

*mf*

96

“Hal - le - lu - jah to our King!”

100

Christ the Sav - ior is born,

104 *mf* *p* Slower (♩ = ca. 82)

Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Slower (♩ = ca. 82)

108 CHILD SOLO (or CHILDREN'S CHOIR) *rit.* **110** *mp* *a tempo*

Wel - come to our world.

SOPRANO / ALTO *rit.* *p* *a tempo*

\*Wel-come to our world.

TENOR / BASS *p*

108 *rit.* **110** *a tempo*

\*SATB choir should sing cued notes only if performed without children.