MARK & FRIENDS

Christmas Time’s a-Comin’: Putting Christ First

Friday, November 27, 2026 | Ministry Package V5.1
Host: Mark Burns | Featured presentation: Christmas Music Special

Program Summary

Mark Burns welcomes the Christmas music season with favorite recordings by Buddy Greene, Michael W. Smith, Steve Green, Larnelle Harris, and Gold City. From reflective songs about Jesus’ birth to cheerful winter standards, the selections invite the listening friend to slow down after Thanksgiving, enjoy the season, and put Christ first. Mark encourages listeners to make Great News Radio their holiday home on the dial and introduces the variety of Christmas music ahead. He also shares a PrimeLife Times gift-subscription idea as a way to express appreciation throughout the year.

Key Takeaways

- Putting Christ first gives the Christmas season its deepest meaning.
- Worship begins with an invitation to magnify the Lord and exalt His name together.
- A quiet pause can help me turn from shopping pressures toward the hope I have in Jesus.
- Christmas points me to the birth of Christ and His promised return.
- The broadcast brings together reflective Christian selections and cheerful winter favorites.
- Different musical styles can help a wide range of listening friends enjoy the season.
- Gratitude for another person can find expression in a thoughtful gift or a word of appreciation.
- I can make room for Christ in my listening habits, conversations, and daily choices.

Scripture References

- Psalm 34:3 — quoted in Mark’s opening invitation to magnify the Lord and exalt His name together.
- Luke 2:10-14 — companion reading: the announcement of the Savior’s birth.
- John 8:12 — companion reading: Jesus, the light of the world.
- Matthew 6:33 — companion reading: seeking God’s kingdom first.
- John 14:27 — companion reading: the peace Jesus gives.
- Revelation 22:20 — companion reading: the promise of Christ’s return.

Quote of the Day

“Oh magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together.” — Mark’s opening invitation, quoting Psalm 34:3

Broadcast Notes

This November 27 edition introduces the Christmas music season. Mark Burns hosts this Christmas music presentation. Musical selections are identified below in broadcast order. The complete spoken remarks are retained in the transcript, with music cues replacing sung lyrics. Artist names and the PrimeLife Times title have been proofread. Scripture references distinguish the verse heard in Mark's opening from companion readings for reflection. Mark's invitation mentions the December PrimeLife Times edition and a twelve-month gift subscription: 217-367-7777 or PrimeLifeTimes.com, using the subscription link.

- "Christmas Time's a-Comin'" — Buddy Greene; opening theme, continued after Mark's introduction, with a brief theme return at the end.
- "All Is Well" — Michael W. Smith.
- "The Birthday of a King" and "O Holy Night" — Steve Green; presented together as introduced by Mark.
- "Let It Snow" and "Sleigh Ride" — Larnelle Harris; a winter favorites medley.
- "I Have Seen the Light" — Gold City.

Practical Applications

- Read Psalm 34:3 and begin the day with a short prayer of praise.
- Choose one Christmas recording that helps me reflect on Jesus rather than hurry through the season.
- Take a quiet break from shopping or holiday planning to remember the Savior's birth.
- Ask how my calendar and spending can reflect the priority I want Christ to have.
- Express thanks to someone through a thoughtful note, call, or gift.
- Invite a friend to enjoy the station's Christmas music with me.
- Read Luke 2:10-14 with my family or during a personal devotional time.
- Carry the spirit of Thanksgiving into the Christmas season through practical kindness.

Today's Challenge

Take five unhurried minutes to praise Jesus, read Psalm 34:3, and choose one way to put Him first in your Christmas preparations.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming into this world and bringing hope to my life. Help me slow down, lift my eyes above the pressures of the season, and make room for You in my heart and plans. Let the music I hear draw me toward worship, peace, and gratitude. Show me how to encourage someone with kindness and appreciation. As I celebrate Your birth and look forward to Your return, help me put You first. In Your name I pray, amen.

About Today's Speaker

Featured Christmas Music

Buddy Greene, Michael W. Smith, Steve Green, Larnelle Harris, and Gold City

Mark introduces these artists and selections during this Christmas music edition of Mark & Friends. The program includes the seasonal theme, reflective songs about Christ’s birth, familiar winter favorites, and Southern Gospel music. Artist identifications follow Mark’s on-air introductions.

Featured on Mark & Friends - Listen anytime under the Mark & Friends tab at GreatNewsRadio.org or WLUJ.org.

About Today's Host

Mark Burns

Host of Mark & Friends

Mark Burns is General Manager of the WLUJ Family of Stations and Great News Radio Network and host of Mark & Friends. With decades of experience in Christian radio and ministry, he presents Scripture-centered programs intended to educate, edify, and evangelize.

Additional Ministry Resources

- Mark & Friends Program Resource Library
- Great News Radio
- WLUJ
- PrimeLife Times - subscription information
- Psalm 34:3 - exalt His name together
- Luke 2:10-14 - the Savior’s birth

Complete Proofread Transcript

[Music: “Christmas Time’s a-Comin’” — Buddy Greene; opening theme. Lyrics omitted.]

Oh magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together, and Christmas time's a comin'. And this will be our theme music through Christmas, and so I'll play it in its entirety. You're listening to Mark and Friends.

[Music: “Christmas Time’s a-Comin’” — Buddy Greene; continuation. Lyrics omitted.]

Merry Christmas! That was Buddy Greene singing, playing, and wishing you a Merry Christmas. And I would pray with the help of our Christmas music and special holiday programming and features, we'll put Christ first and really be grounded to celebrate his birthday on December 25th.

We'll have a whole lineup of Christmas music that you'll hear throughout this December, and even now through the end of November, we'll be interspersing more and more Christmas selections. So I'll begin with a few favorites in just a moment, but be looking for the December edition of PrimeLife Times being distributed available at locations throughout central Illinois. Now this would be a special gift to give someone, whether it's for Christmas or a post-Thanksgiving reminder of how thankful you are for them, but it's a gift that keeps on giving.

It's for 12 months, so if you start it in December, it'll go through next November, and so we can mail out the December edition right away. Just give us a call, 217-367-7777, 217-367-7777, or stop by primelifetimes.com, primelifetimes.com, and go to the subscription link, and you can sign up online. Let me share with you one of my Christmas favorites, All is Well by Michael W. Smith.

I believe even this music now will have a calming influence on you if you're still a little wired Black Friday and the shopping frenzies, so allow this song to bring soothing relief, relaxation, hope, and the truth that all is well when you put your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who will return and whose birth we celebrate this next month. Here is All is Well by Michael W. Smith, and it'll be followed by Birthday of a King and O Holy Night by Steve Green.

[Music: “All Is Well” — Michael W. Smith; “The Birthday of a King” and “O Holy Night” — Steve Green. Lyrics omitted.]

Just love those two arrangements: All Is Well by Michael W. Smith followed by Birthday of a King and O Holy Night by Steve Green as we're now preparing for the Christmas season and so on today the edition of Mark and Friends, I'm featuring some of the selections you'll hear as we're transitioning all of our music to Christmas music in the next few days. So here's another holiday favorite sung by Larnelle Harris: Let It Snow and Sleigh Ride.

[Music: “Let It Snow” / “Sleigh Ride” — Larnelle Harris. Lyrics omitted.]

Such a fun song during this season. We celebrate our Lord's birth. Allow Great News Radio to be your holiday home on the dial for God-honoring Christmas music that celebrates the reason for the season, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And we'll be playing a lot of favorites from the traditional classic Christmas music you've known for many years to various choral, light contemporary, and all sorts of instrumental, soloists, just God-honoring Christmas music representing the various genres including this one by Gold City which will please many of our Southern Gospel listeners, and this is their arrangement of I Have Seen the Light

[Music: “I Have Seen the Light” — Gold City. Lyrics omitted.]

[Music: Brief return of “Christmas Time’s a-Comin’” — Buddy Greene; closing Christmas greeting. Lyrics omitted.]