



# 2021 Peace Light

## From Bethlehem

Indian Waters Council  
International.IndianWaters.org



### History of the Peace Light from Bethlehem

The tradition of Scouting and the Peace Light began in Austria in the late 1980's. Each year, a Scout from Upper Austria fetches the light - a live Eternal Flame- from the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The light is then transported to Vienna, Austria under the auspices of the International Scouting Movement.

During the weeks before Christmas, Scouts distribute the light to more than 30 European countries, throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico, through the generosity of Austrian Airlines, and the cooperation of the Brooklyn Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Greater New York Council. In past years the Peace Light has been presented to Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, members of the European parliament in Strasbourg, and the United Nations Troops in Kosovo.

On November 20, 2021, eleven-year-old Tobias Nusbaumer from Kirchham, Austria, was escorted to the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem by a Greek Orthodox priest where they lit the Light of Peace. From there they traveled to Vienna with Austrian Airlines, bringing the symbol of peace to Europe. The light was distributed in Austria at a Service of Dedication to Scouting delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries for use at ecumenical services throughout the Continent. Scouts and Guides then take the light on to other churches, hospitals, old people homes, prisons, and places of public, cultural and political importance - to anybody that appreciates the significance of the gift.

Austrian Airlines transported the Light of Peace to New York, arriving at JFK on December 11, 2021. After a sharing ceremony at the airport, the Light immediately started its travels across the United States, with the living flame being carried by lantern by volunteers in the Scouting movement.

This year the light has travelled from Bethlehem to Austria, to New York, and then to Indianapolis with Thomas & Brian Duane, Mayflower Council Pack 105 in Pembroke, MA. From there Steven Driver, Lincoln Heritage Council, Troop 1 in Jeffersonville, IN brought it to Murfreesboro, TN, and Fredrich Maney, brought it to the Atlanta Area Council. Liene Kukainis then received the light from Atlanta coordinator Fontaine Kohler and brought it to Troop and Pack 30, Blue Ridge Council, in Greenville SC. Lorie McGraw of Troop 91, Indian Waters Council, received the light in Greenville and brought the Peace Light to share with Columbia SC and surrounding areas.

**This is the fourth year that the Peace Light has made it to South Carolina.** Please carry the flame with you. You may transport the live flame, or you may light a candle and allow the Peace Light from Bethlehem to infuse the candlewick. It may then be extinguished and be carried unlit to its destination. Once there you may relight the candle, and the spirit of the Peace Light from Bethlehem will be with you. Please share with others the message of Peace in the World and become a Messenger of Peace.

*May the kindly spirit of Christmas spread its radiance far and wide,  
So all the world may feel the glow, of this Holy Christmastide.  
So may this light of peace today that has travelled many miles,  
Bring joy and hope to many, and fill each face with smiles.  
So may every heart and home continue through the year,  
To feel the warmth and wonder of this season of good cheer.  
And may it bring us closer to God and closer to each other,  
With every stranger known as friend,  
whether Sister or a Brother*



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For more information, history, and ceremonies to share the light, please visit [www.peacelight.org](http://www.peacelight.org)

Hymns  
January 2, 2022

HYMN 152

*What Star is This, with Beams So Bright*

Coffin

**What star is this, with beams so bright,  
More lovely than the noonday light?  
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,  
Glad tidings of our God to bring.**

**While outward signs the star displays,  
An inward light the Lord conveys  
And urges them, with tender might,  
To seek the giver of the light.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace  
Impels us on to seek your face,  
Let not our slothful hearts refuse  
The guidance of your light to use.**

HYMN 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Spiritual

**Refrain:**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shown a holy light.**

HYMN 150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

Dix

**As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.**

**As they offered gifts most rare  
At thy manger, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

**Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.**