

# MLP Japan News



## Greetings

### Almost Christmas

It is almost Christmas. In our home, we are reading one Bible verse a day from our Advent calendar, looking forward to December 25th to come. Advent is a time to await for Christmas and to also look forward to Jesus' second coming. It is my prayer that many people in the Japan receive Jesus into their hearts and rejoice in His grace and mercy especially at this time of year.

Kaori Egawa  
MLP Japan Media Consultant

## Announcements

### What is Christmas?



Did you know that Oyako Joy Club has a YouTube Channel? It started last year in December and there is a series of Christmas videos called "What is Christmas". In the series, Bell the Rabbit talks to her friend Pyon about the Christmas story little at a time. It is made for children and people who do not know the Bible. Please take a look and share it with your friends and family.

List of Videos →



## Translation Tidbits

### Joy to the World

Here is a pop quiz. Name the original song of Morobito Kozorite(もろびとこぞりて). Many of you who are familiar with the Japanese hymnal may answer, Joy to the *World!* But that is not the case. When you look into it, you will learn that *Hark, The Glad Sound!* *The Savior Comes* is the correct answer. Where can we find the Japanese translation for *Joy to the World*, then? Find out more on this topic on page 2.



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11

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**Topics on Hymns**

### Morobito Kozorite

The LECC has been using the hymnbook published by Seibunsha for many years. When you open to page 25, you will find the music for Morobito Kozorite. When you see the left top part of the score, you will see in very small print that says *Hark, the Glad Sound! the Savior Comes*. You do not see *Joy to the World* anywhere. A question arises: Is there a translation of the hymn *Joy to the World* in this hymnbook used with a different tune? The search begins by looking into the index but it is nowhere to be found. If it does not exist in our hymnbook, why not make one? So began the work of MLP Japan's Christmas project. Please see the Japanese edition of the newsletter if you would like to actually sing the new translation. The back translation is at the bottom of the page for your reference. Enjoy!

### Angels' Christmas Carol

Last Christmas in 2021, MLP Japan was able to create and share *What is Christmas* video series for children. This Christmas, we are happy to share song videos of a Christian song *Angels' Christmas Carol* which was broadcasted on the WELS podcast radio for a few years from 2012. The Japanese lyrics translated in 2017 reflects the ideas of the Japanese children who attended Joy Club meetings at that time. I Pray you will enjoy listening to the song. Merry Christmas!



Oyako Joy Club Video  
*What is Christmas?*



Japanese song video  
 with kanji lyrics



Japanese song video  
 with hiragana lyrics

### Diving into Hymns

#### A way to learn more about a hymn

LECC has been using the hymnbook published by Seibunsha. What is your favorite hymn that you like to sing in worship? Who is the writer of that hymn? What should you do when you want to know what the original song title and the maker of that hymn is? Before you reach for your smartphone or your computer to google it, please first try to get the most information out of what is printed on that hymnbook page. When you open to the page of your favorite hymn in your Japanese hymnbook, you will see something written in tiny letters on top of the score. You would see the first line of the lyrics in its original language on the left-hand side. The name and the birth year and the year of death of the writer are written just beneath it. You would normally find the name of the tune, the birth year, and the year of death of the editor on the right-hand side. You would also see the international song name printed beneath it in English letters.

### Hymn translation

#### Joy to the Word! Back Translation

1. Rejoice, all the world! Greet your King!  
 Open your hearts and praise Him.  
 Praise Him, praise, praise Him.
2. Jesus our Maker is king of all the earth.  
 Rocks, rivers, fields and mountains are His.  
 Jesus owns, Jesus, Jesus owns them all.
3. Sin, sadness, even the sting of death,  
 Jesus takes away and loves sinners.  
 Loves sinners, loves, loves sinners.
4. The Lord reigns with justice and truth.  
 Praise His grace and glory,  
 Praise His glory, praise, praise His glory.

Translated by Kaori E. in Dec 2022  
 Please see the MLP Japan News Japanese edition to see the lyrics in Japanese.

Multi-Language Productions (MLP) Japan produces multimedia content that conducts and encourages gospel outreach in Japan. MLP Japan is working under the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)