

SERVICE AND CITIZENSHIP AT HCS

CHRIST CAME DOWN...



Spencer Thomas, sharing a Christmas moment.

Philippians 2 teaches us that

when Christ purposed to come to earth, he came as a servant. Christ was one with the Father, begotten not made; Christ was the Word of God, who was with God and was God. And yet, Christ did not cling to his equality with God, but made himself noth-



Serving through song: HCS students sing carols at a local Senior's home.

ing, taking on the form of a servant. When the Word of God who spoke all of creation into existence came bodily to earth, he was wrapped not in robes of power and prestige, but was girded like servant to minister to us; to be obedient to the will of the Father to wash us forever free of sin through his death on the cross.

How far Christ came down to serve us cannot ever be fully appreciated by the human mind. But though we understand only in part, we can dimly grasp the implications of His incarnation. Just as we understand that to be forgiven means we must also forgive, so when I realize that Christ's has come to serve me, I must serve others. Service is not an optional, additional aspect of the Christian life—something in addition to faith and worship and fellowship. Service is at the very heart of following Christ. The way I love others is the practical demonstration of the way I love God (1John 4). The way I look out for the interests of the least members of the human race is the measure of how I serve Christ (Matt 25).

This Christmas we urge you to love as you have been loved; to forgive as you have been forgiven; and to serve as Christ has served you by coming all the way down to where we are.

Last week Heritage students went out to serve some of the more forgotten members of our community, and came away feeling strangely exalted.



Andrea Strugnelli, Grade 7, shows the card she made to give to the members of a local Senior's Home.



Rachel Baldry makes cards to bless local seniors—but gets blessed in the process herself.

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

By T.S. Eliot

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed,
refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the
terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.

Then the camel men cursing and
grumbling
And running away, and wanting their
liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the
lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns
unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high
prices:

A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all
night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears,
saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a
temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of
vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill
beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped in
away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with
vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for
pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so
we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment
too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say)
satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I
remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth,
certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt.
I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different;
this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like
Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these
Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old
dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their
gods.
I should be glad of another death.



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