

Readings and Carols

Christmas 2023



## Awake! Awake!

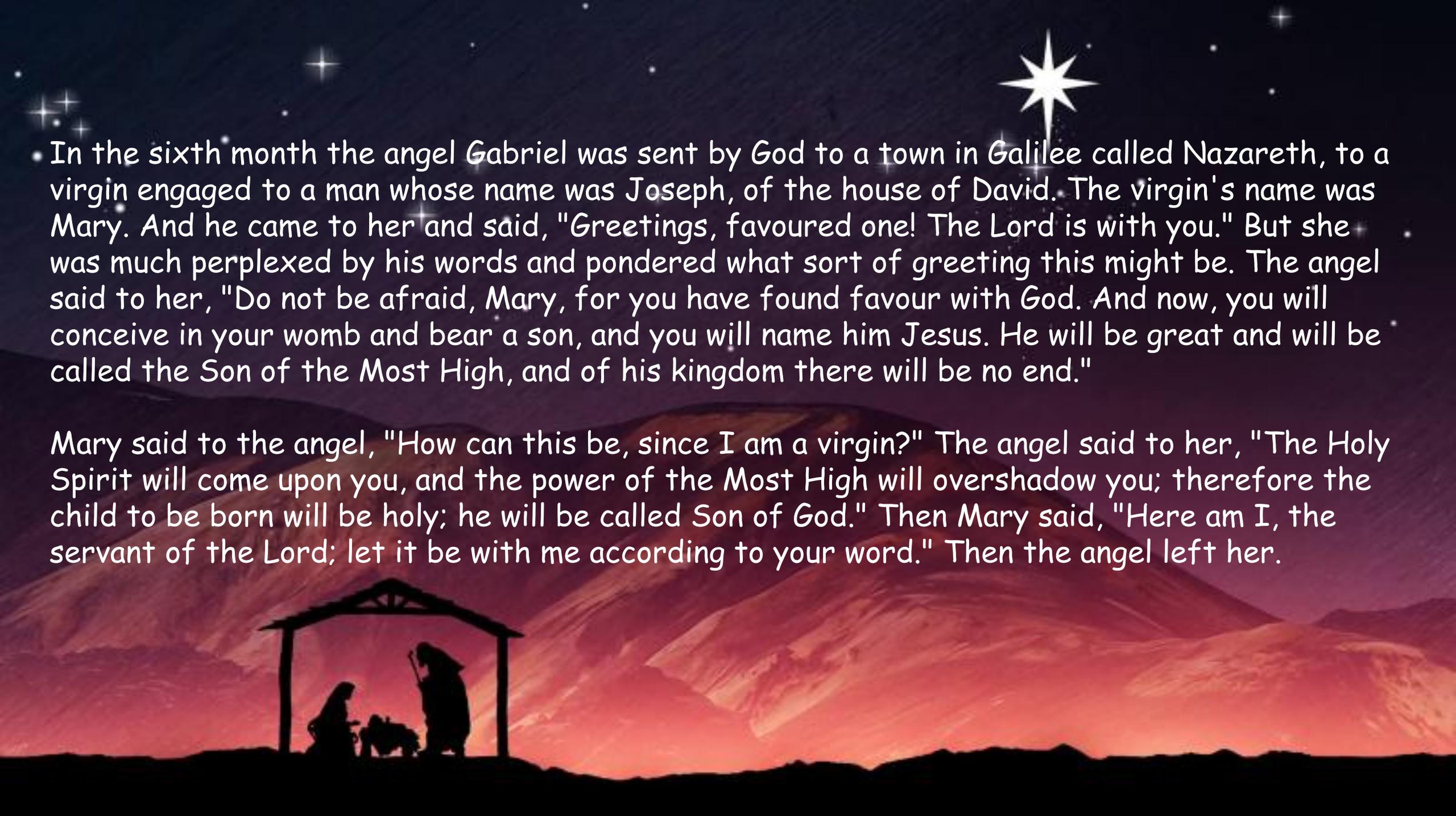
Awake! Awake! For the Lord is coming  
Awake! Awake! There's no time to sleep  
Awake! Awake! For the Lord is coming  
The King is coming in glory

All over the world people are waiting,  
Waiting for love and the promise of new life

Awake! Awake! For the Lord is coming  
Awake! Awake! There's no time to sleep  
Awake! Awake! For the Lord is coming  
The King is coming in glory

All over the world people are working,  
Working for peace and the freedom that it  
brings.

Awake! Awake! For the Lord is coming  
Awake! Awake! There's no time to sleep  
Awake! Awake! For the Lord is coming  
The King is coming in glory

The background of the image is a dark night sky with several bright stars. A prominent, large, multi-pointed star is located in the upper right quadrant. Below the sky, the silhouettes of rolling hills are visible against a dark background. In the foreground, the silhouettes of the Nativity scene are shown: a stable with a thatched roof, and inside, the figures of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus lying in a manger. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative of the Christmas story.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Angel voices sing, Hallelujahs ring,  
For today in Bethlehem the love of God has come to men  
The saviour of the world is Christ the king!

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Leave your cares behind, seek and you will find.  
For today in Bethlehem, the love of God has come to men  
The saviour of the world is Jesus Christ.

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Come let us adore, now and evermore,  
For today in Bethlehem  
The love of God has come to men  
The saviour of the world is Christ the Lord!

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

Unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a son is given,  
He will reign in all the earth,  
He will be called Emmanuel.

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel' (which means 'God with us').

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.



I had a dream that I was standing on a hillside  
And all the lights of town were shining far below  
When up in the air beautiful voices  
Sing a new song, let everyone know,

*Oh and love shone down  
over the hills and over the valleys,  
Oh and love shone down over the world*

Somebody spoke to me I knew it was an angel  
He said there's something that I think you ought to know.  
Then he just smiled, said don't be afraid now.  
Sing a new song, let everyone know

*Oh and love shone down  
over the hills and over the valleys,  
Oh and love shone down over the world*

And then he told me all about the baby Jesus,  
How to find him where exactly I should go.  
Then he was joined by millions of others  
Sing a new song, let everyone know

*Oh and love shone down  
over the hills and over the valleys,  
Oh and love shone down over the world*

Well did I dream or was I really on that hillside  
On that Christmas night so very long ago,  
When he was born Jesus our Saviour  
Sing a new song let everyone know

*Oh and love shone down  
over the hills and over the valleys,  
Oh and love shone down over the world, Over the world.*

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'



Midnight: there's the strangest felling in the air tonight  
There's something going on, but I can't make it out  
I wonder what it's all about?

Starlight: breaking through the darkness in the dead of night,  
Illuminates the path that takes you out of sight,  
And all the way to Bethlehem.

Tonight's events were planned in heaven,  
The greatest story ever penned.  
Heaven and earth have come together,  
And life has come to Bethlehem.

Angels: taking care of things that only they can do,  
Are waiting in the wings to bring the joyful news,  
It's going to turn the world around.

Strangers: having made arrangements for a night or two,  
Have found accommodation in the crowded rooms.  
The house is packed in Bethlehem.

Tonight's events were planned in heaven,  
The greatest story ever penned.  
Heaven and earth have come together,  
And life has come to Bethlehem.

Shepherds: minding their own business looking after things,  
Are startled by an unexpected happening,  
As angel choirs appear to them.

Wise men: taking charts and telescopes and compasses,  
Investigate the star that takes them travelling,  
Until they come to Bethlehem.

Tonight's events were planned in heaven,  
The greatest story ever penned.  
Heaven and earth have come together,  
And life has come to Bethlehem. X2

And life has come to Bethlehem.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.



O holy night!

The stars are brightly shining

It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and error pining

Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees

Oh hear the angel voices

Oh night divine

Oh night when Christ was born

Oh night divine

Oh night divine

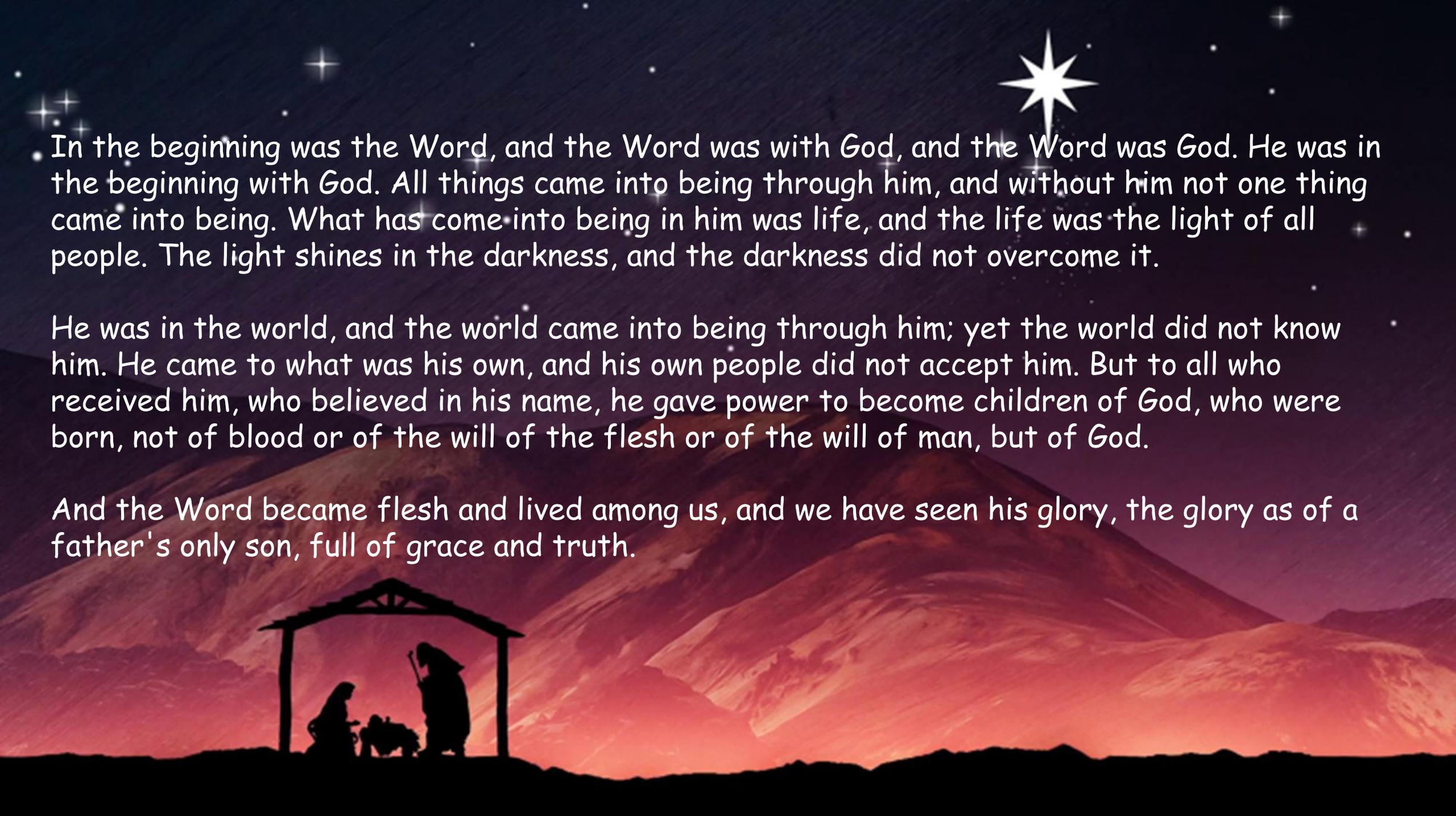
On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon Virgin Mother and Child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in Heavenly peace!  
sleep in Heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from Heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, Love's pure light  
radiant, beams from Thy Holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.



Feliz Navidad  
Feliz Navidad  
Feliz Navidad  
Próspero año y Felicidad

Feliz Navidad  
Feliz Navidad  
Feliz Navidad  
Próspero año y Felicidad

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas  
I wanna wish you a merry Christmas  
I wanna wish you a merry Christmas  
From the bottom of my heart

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas  
I wanna wish you a merry Christmas  
I wanna wish you a merry Christmas  
From the bottom of my heart



Oh, when the snowman brings the snow  
Well he just might like to know  
He's put a great big smile on somebody's face  
If you jump into your bed  
Quickly cover up your head  
Don't you lock the doors  
you know that sweet Santa Claus is on the way

Well I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
When the kids start singing and the band begins to play  
Oh I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
Let the bells ring out for Christmas

When we're skating in the park  
If the storm cloud paints it dark  
Then your rosy cheeks gonna light my merry way  
Now the frosticles appear  
And they've frozen up my beard  
So we'll lie by the fire  
till the sleep simply melts them all away

Well I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
When the kids start singing and the band begins to play  
Oh, I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
So, let the bells ring out for Christmas

When the snowman brings the snow  
Well he just might like to know  
He's put a great big smile on somebody's face  
So if Santa brings that sleigh  
All along the milky way  
I'll sign my name on the rooftop in the snow then he may decide to stay

Well I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
When the kids start singing and the band begins to play  
Oh I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
So, let the bells ring out for Christmas

Well I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
When the kids start singing and the band begins to play  
Oh I wish it could be Christmas everyday  
Let the bells ring out for Christmas  
Why don't you give your love for Christmas



We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year

