

What is God All About

John 3:1-17



Dec 20,
2020

Pastor
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Oriskany Falls United Methodist Church

“Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of Grace and Salvation, but it also is a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance.”

John Henry Newman

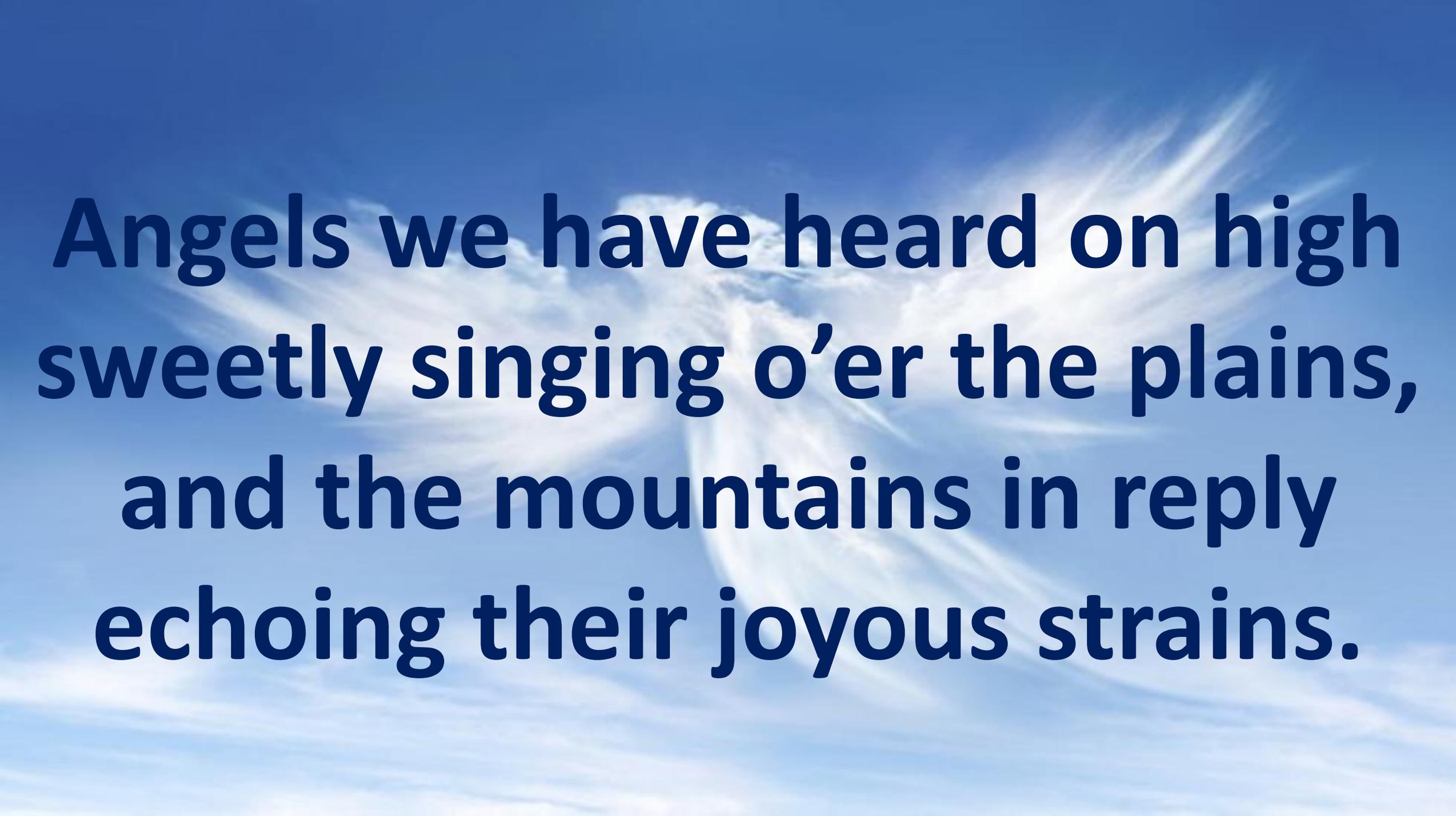


Angels

WE HAVE HEARD

on high

#238 UMH



**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.**



Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

**Why your joyous
strains prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire
your heavenly song?**



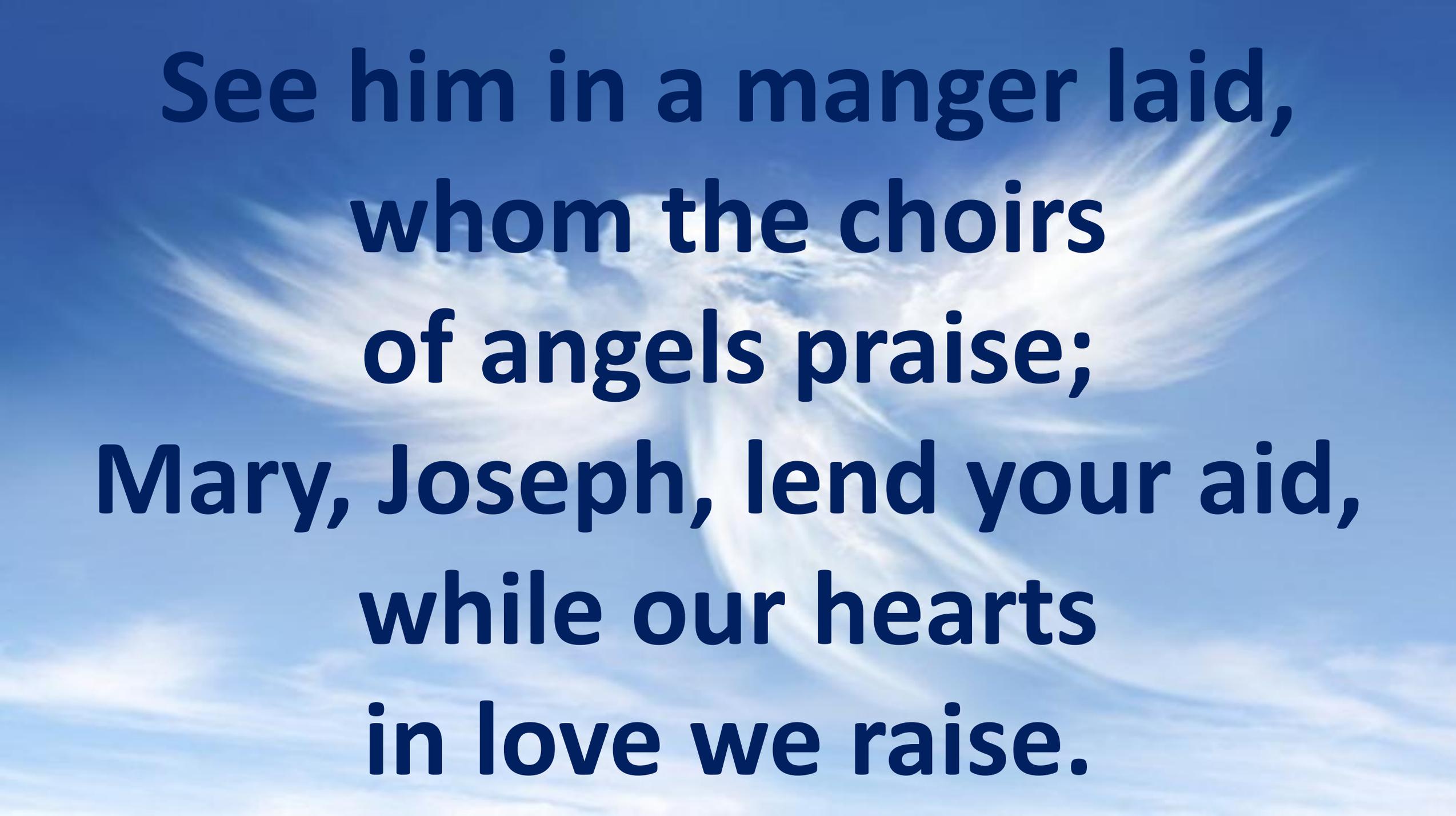
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!



**Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth
the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord,
the newborn King.**



Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!



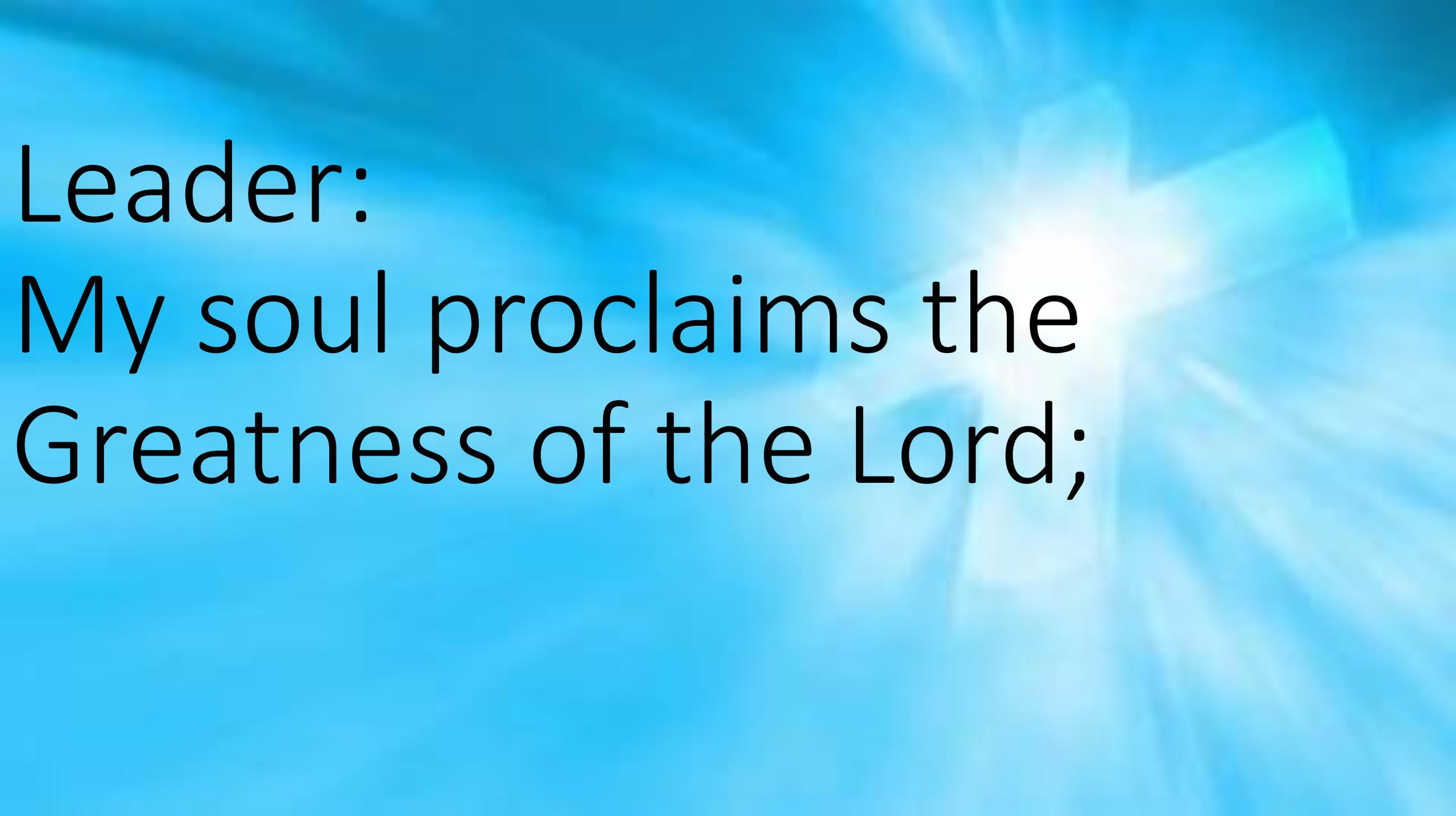
**See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs
of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts
in love we raise.**

A bright sun shining through a blue sky with wispy white clouds. The sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, creating a lens flare effect. The clouds are scattered and light, adding texture to the background.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The image features a dark blue, starry background. At the top center, a bright white starburst with a blue glow and radiating lines is positioned. Below it, the text "A CALL TO WORSHIP" is written in a bold, blue, serif font with a slight shadow. At the bottom center, there are dark silhouettes of three figures, likely representing the Nativity scene, with one figure kneeling and another standing.

A CALL TO WORSHIP



Leader:

My soul proclaims the
Greatness of the Lord;

PEOPLE:

**My spirit rejoices in God my
Savior!**

A bright, glowing cross is centered on the right side of the image. The cross is white and emits a strong, radiant light, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a solid, vibrant blue. The text is positioned on the left side of the image, in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

Leader:
The Arm of the Lord is
Strong!

PEOPLE:

God has cast down the
mighty from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

Leader:

God has filled the hungry
with good things and has
sent the rich away empty.

PEOPLE:

God has come to the aid of
God's people Israel.

Leader:

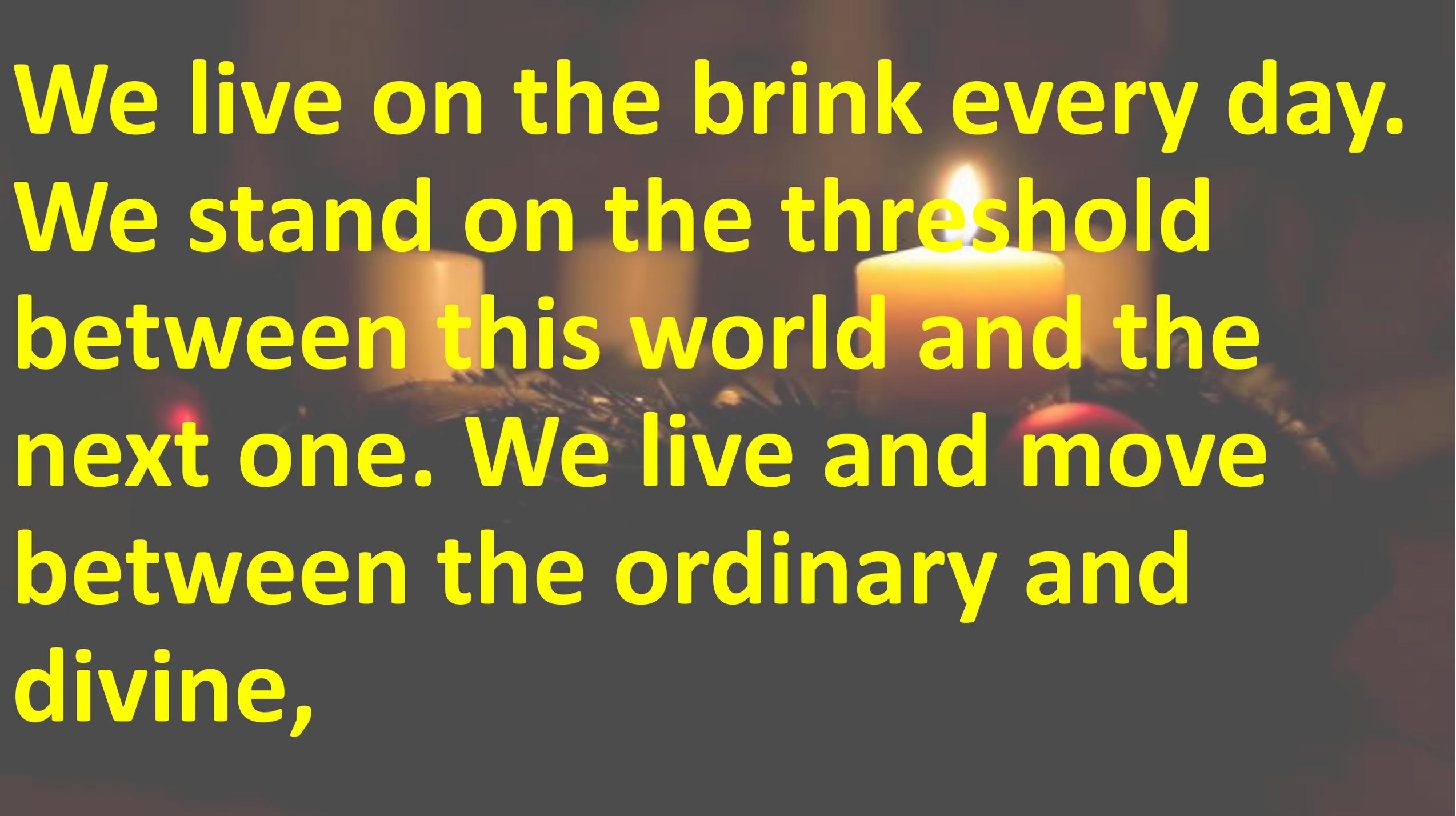
Let us now Worship the Lord!

ALL:

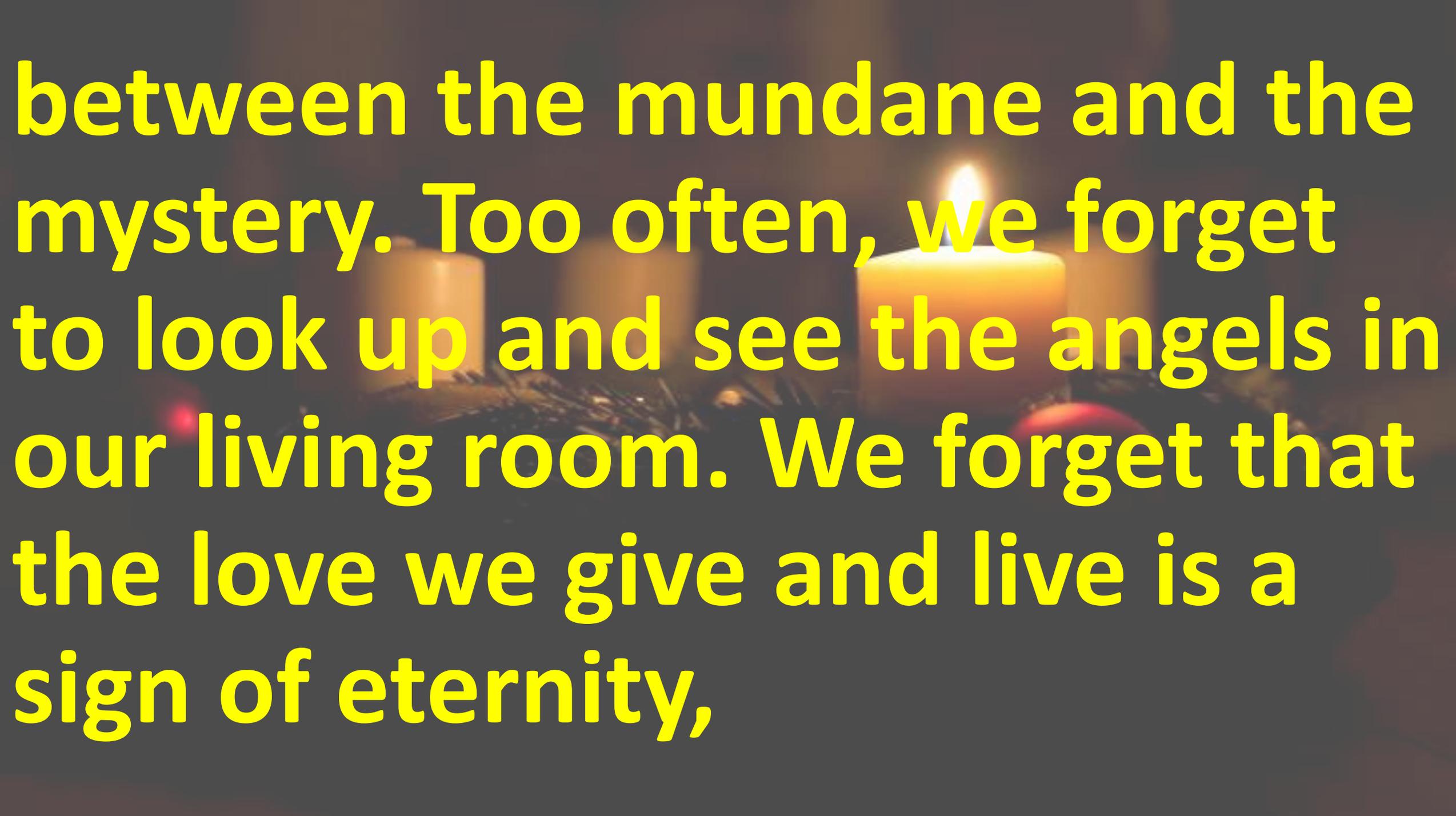
AMEN!



Luke 1:26-38

The background features several lit candles with a warm, yellow glow. A prominent red Christmas ornament is visible on the right side. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the light from the candles illuminating the surrounding area.

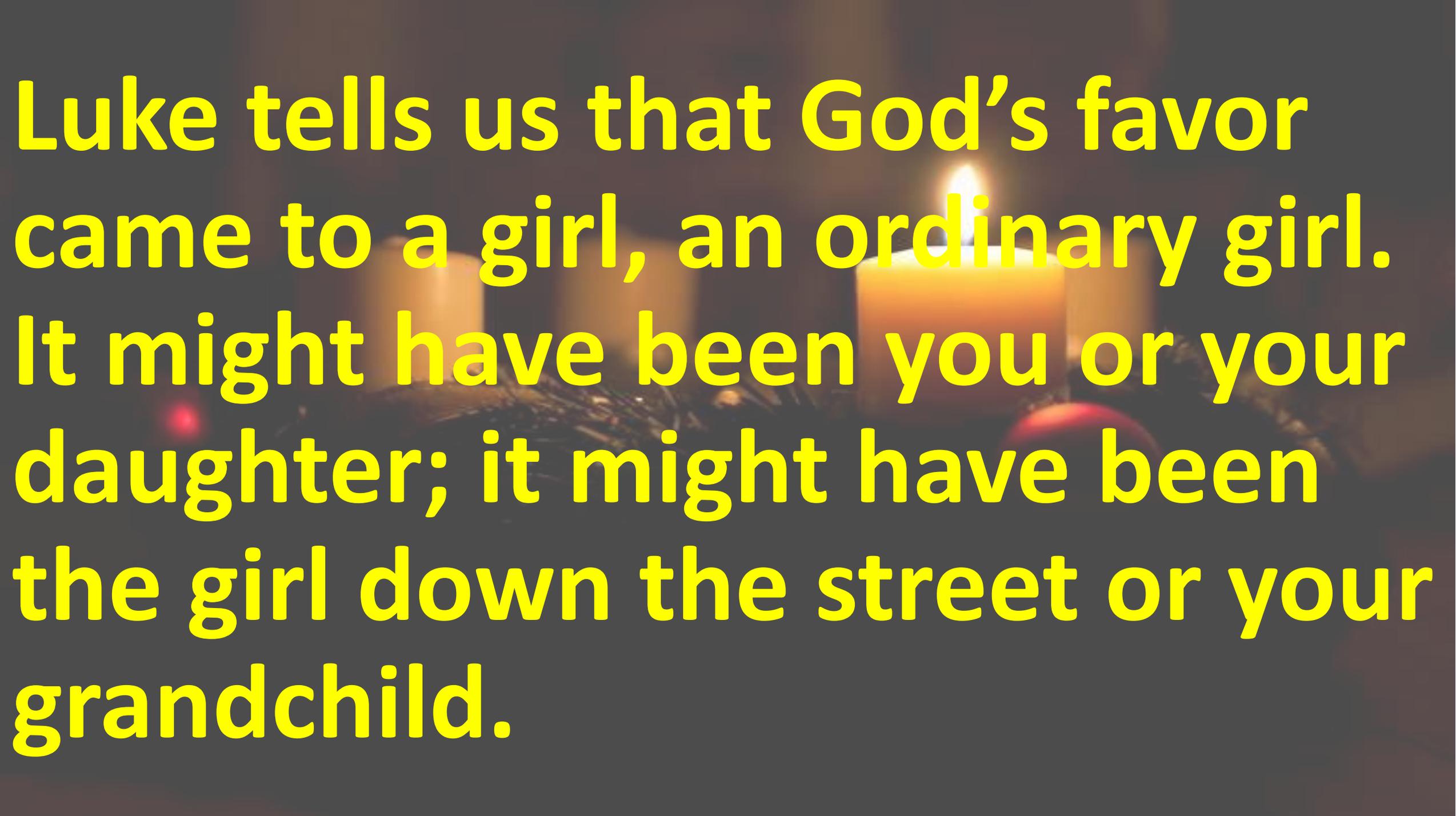
**We live on the brink every day.
We stand on the threshold
between this world and the
next one. We live and move
between the ordinary and
divine,**

A close-up photograph of several lit candles in a living room setting. The candles are lit, casting a warm glow. In the foreground, a red Christmas ornament is visible. The background is dark, suggesting a living room at night.

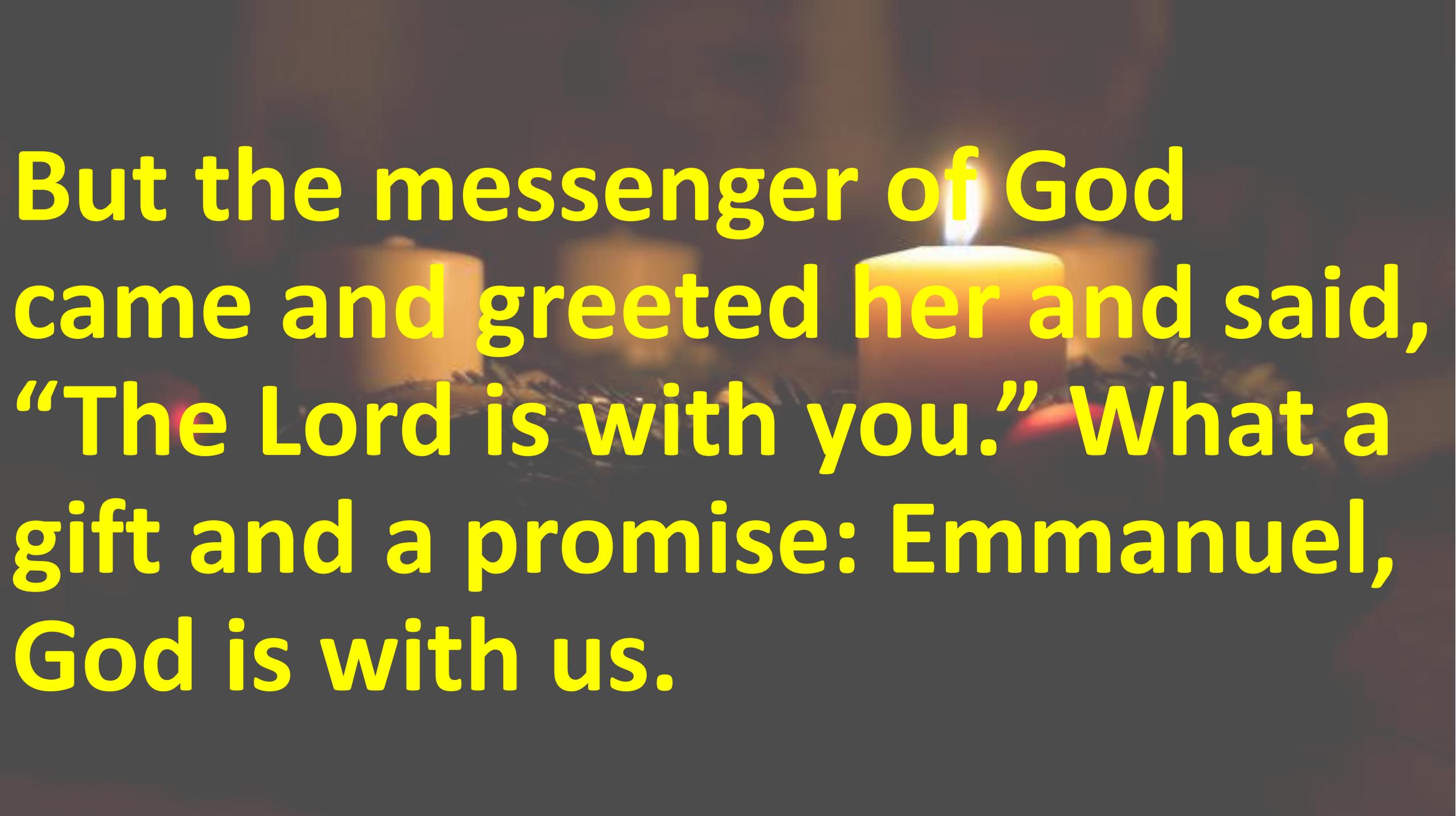
**between the mundane and the
mystery. Too often, we forget
to look up and see the angels in
our living room. We forget that
the love we give and live is a
sign of eternity,**

A lit candle in the center, surrounded by other unlit candles and a red Christmas ornament, set against a dark background.

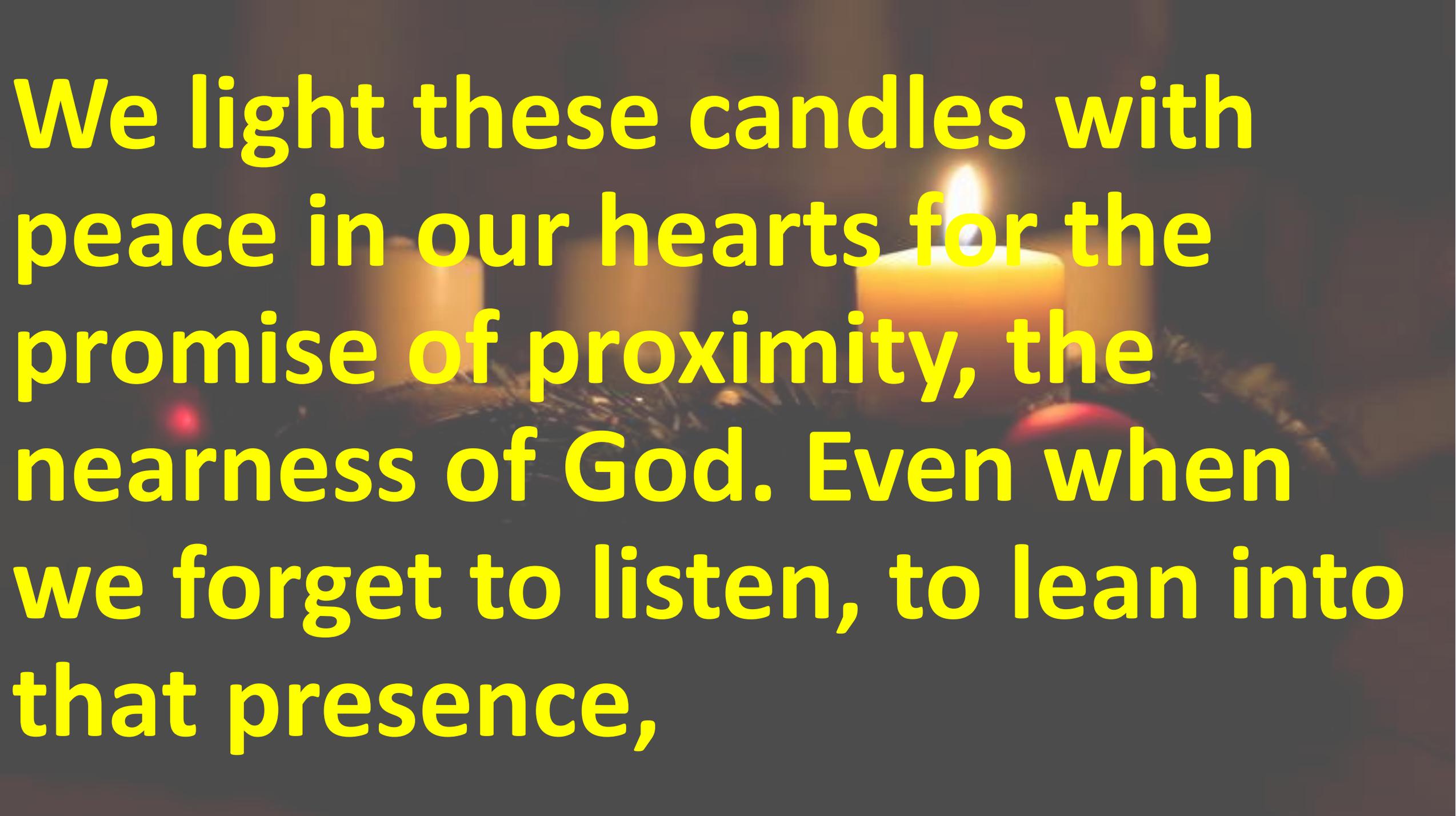
**God with us, right now. We
forget that company is coming.**



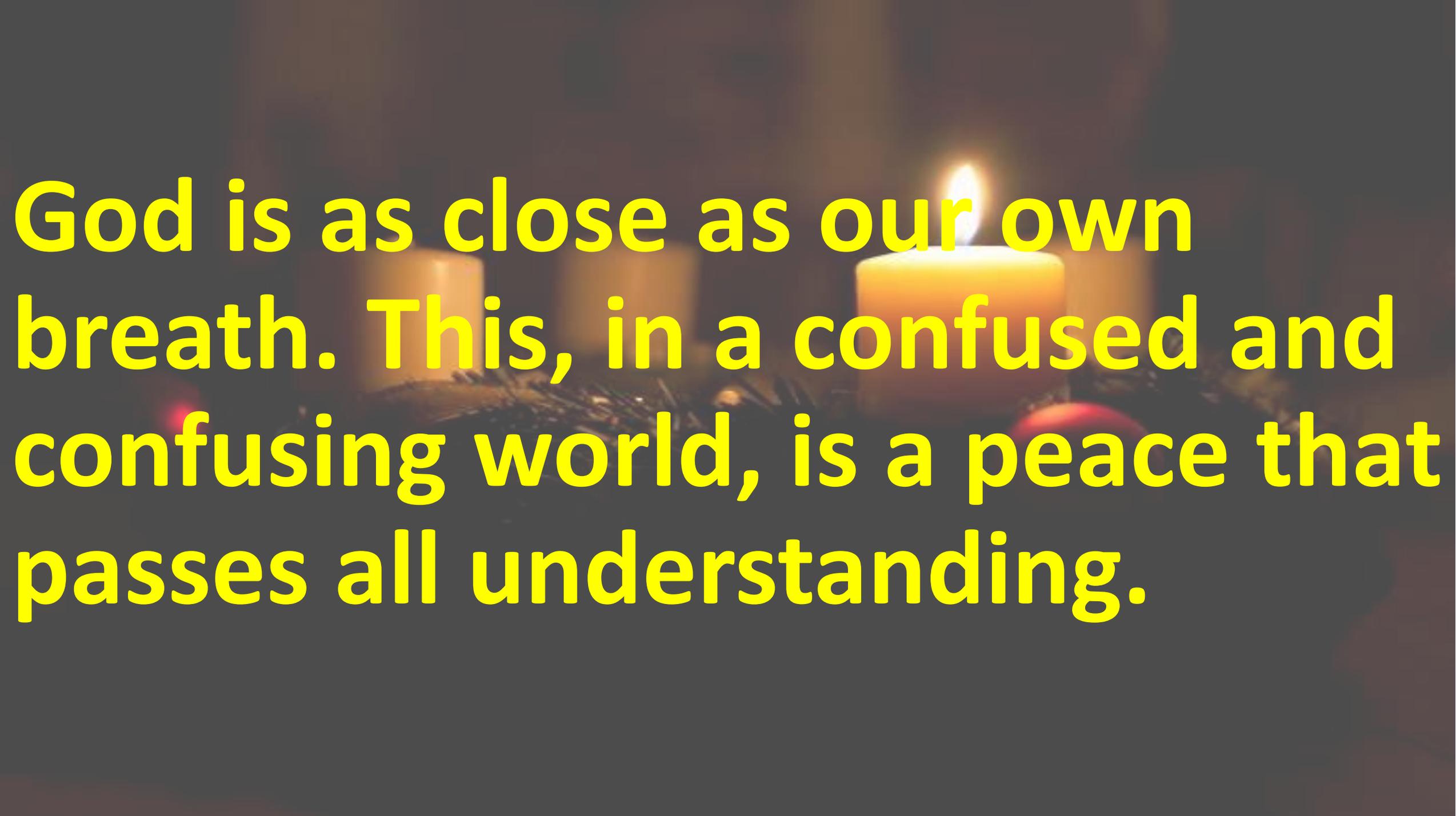
Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild.

A lit candle in the foreground with other candles in the background, set against a dark background.

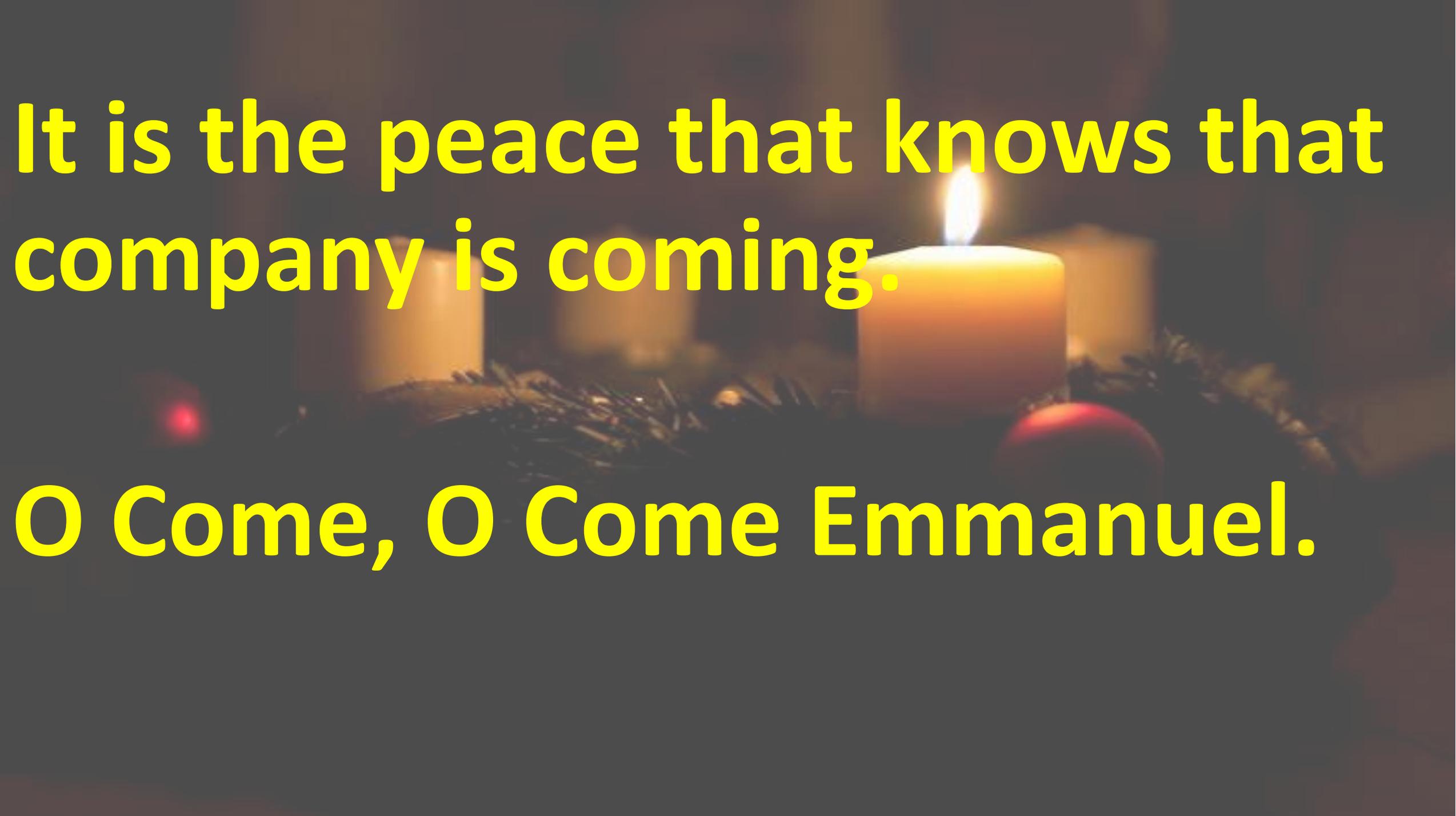
But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, “The Lord is with you.” What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

A close-up photograph of several lit candles in a dark setting. The candles are lit, with a bright flame visible on the central one. The background is dark, and there are some blurred lights and a red Christmas ornament visible in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image in a bright yellow color.

**We light these candles with
peace in our hearts for the
promise of proximity, the
nearness of God. Even when
we forget to listen, to lean into
that presence,**



**God is as close as our own
breath. This, in a confused and
confusing world, is a peace that
passes all understanding.**

A lit candle in a wreath with other candles in the background. The candle is lit, and the flame is visible. The background is dark, and there are other candles and a red ornament visible.

**It is the peace that knows that
company is coming.**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.



THIS WEEK

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

A person wearing a white, flowing robe stands waist-deep in a body of water. Their arms are raised high in a gesture of praise or joy. The water splashes around them, creating a dynamic and energetic scene. In the clear blue sky above, a white dove is visible, symbolizing peace. The overall atmosphere is one of spiritual joy and triumph.

Joys & Concerns

The image features two hands, one from a lighter-skinned person on the left and one from a darker-skinned person on the right, cupping a glowing, translucent green orb. A thin, bright green ring encircles the orb. The background is a dark, textured blue. The text is centered over the orb and hands.

THE PRAYERS OF
GOD'S PEOPLE

**Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.





OFFERING TIME

“The offering is an act of worship”

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly host

Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Amen



A glowing lantern is the central focus, positioned in a window. The lantern has a white top and a glass body with a metal frame. Inside, a warm light emanates from a candle or small lamp. The window is set into a dark, textured wall. In the foreground, there are green holly leaves and pine branches, some with small red berries. The overall atmosphere is cozy and festive.

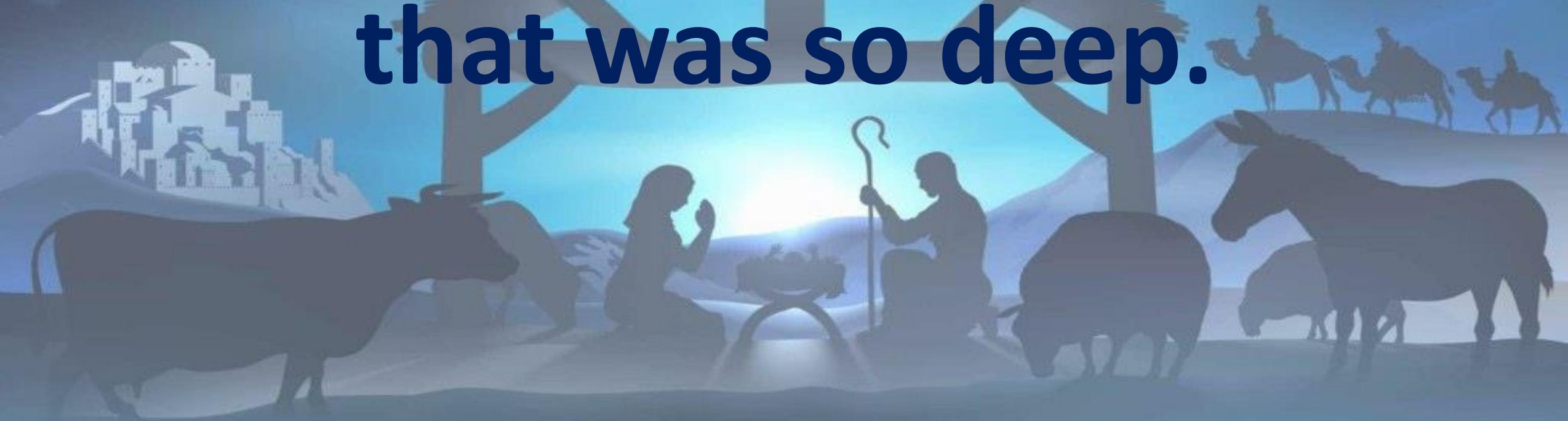
The First Noel

UMH #245

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;**



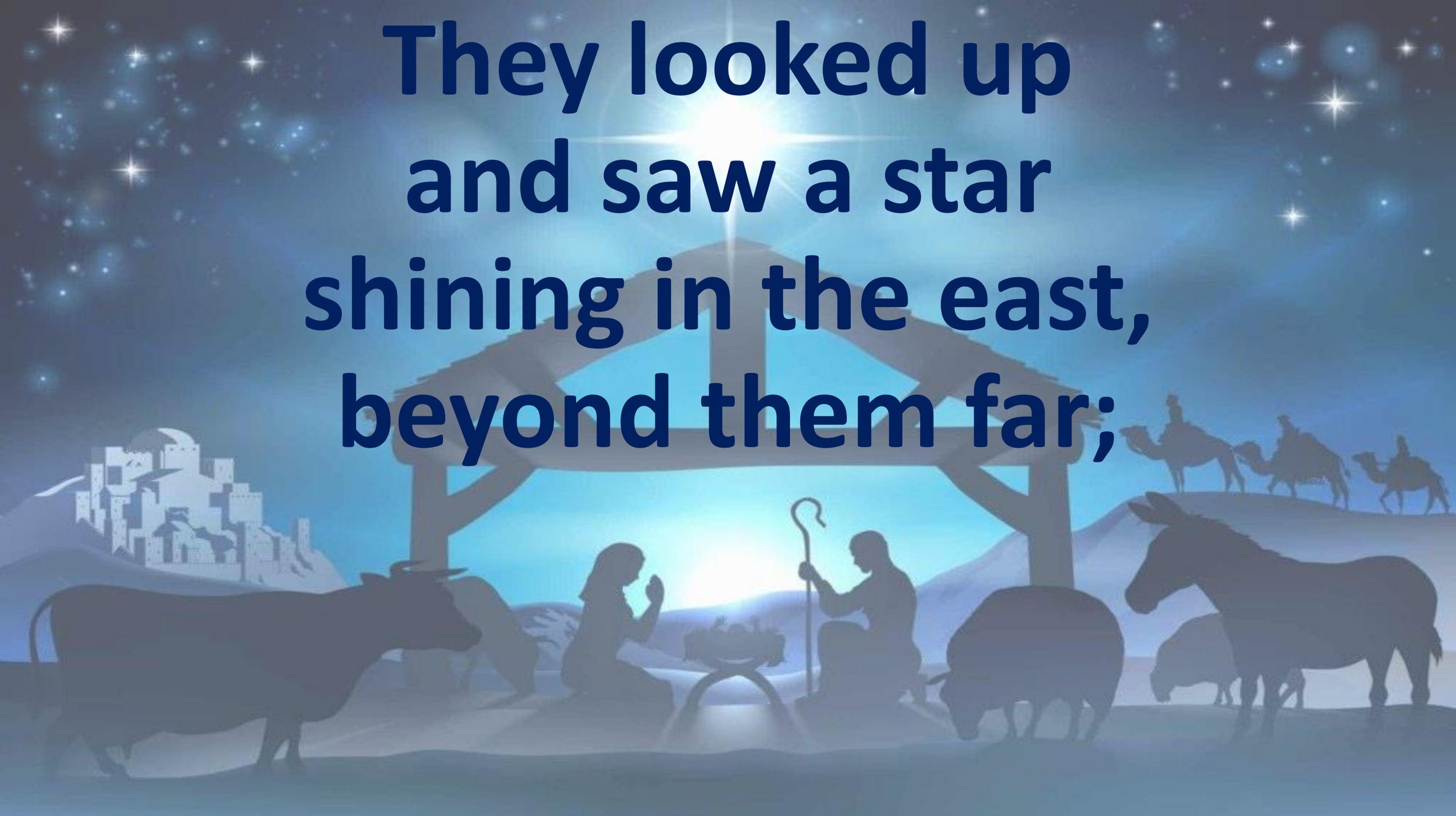
**in fields where they
lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night
that was so deep.**



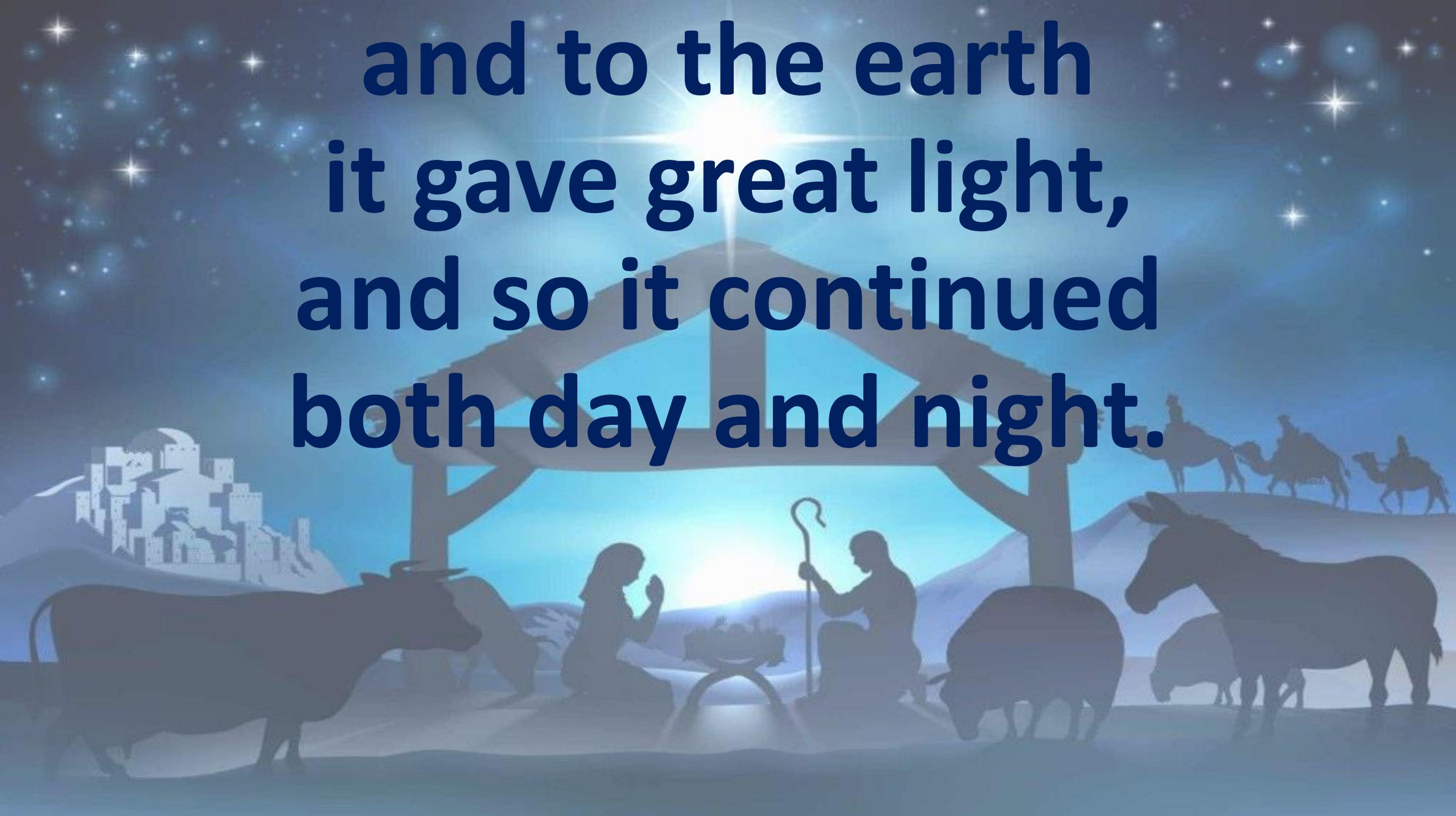
**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**



**They looked up
and saw a star
shining in the east,
beyond them far;**



**and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued
both day and night.**



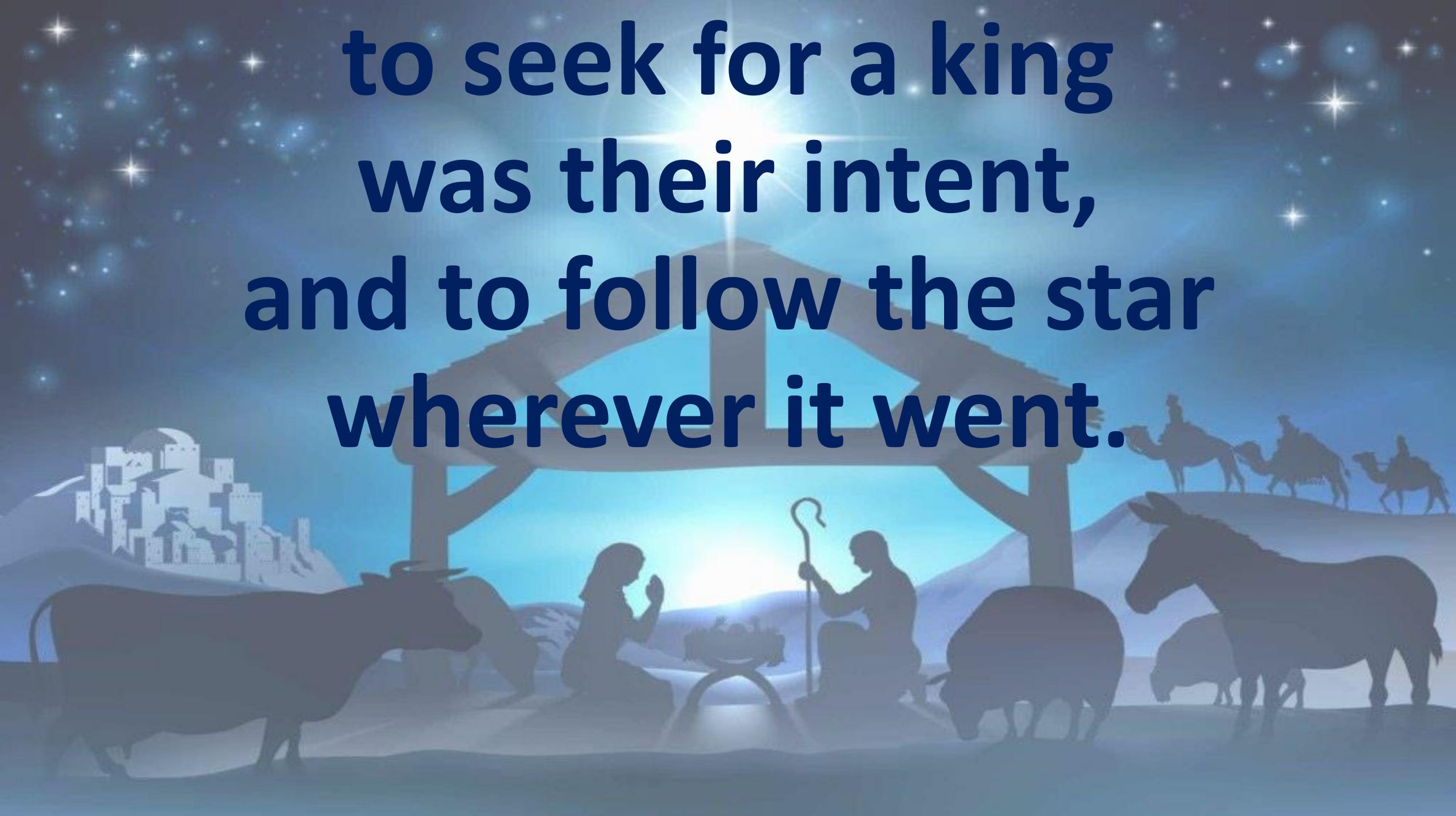
**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**



**And by the light
of that same star
three Wise Men came
from country far;**



**to seek for a king
was their intent,
and to follow the star
wherever it went.**



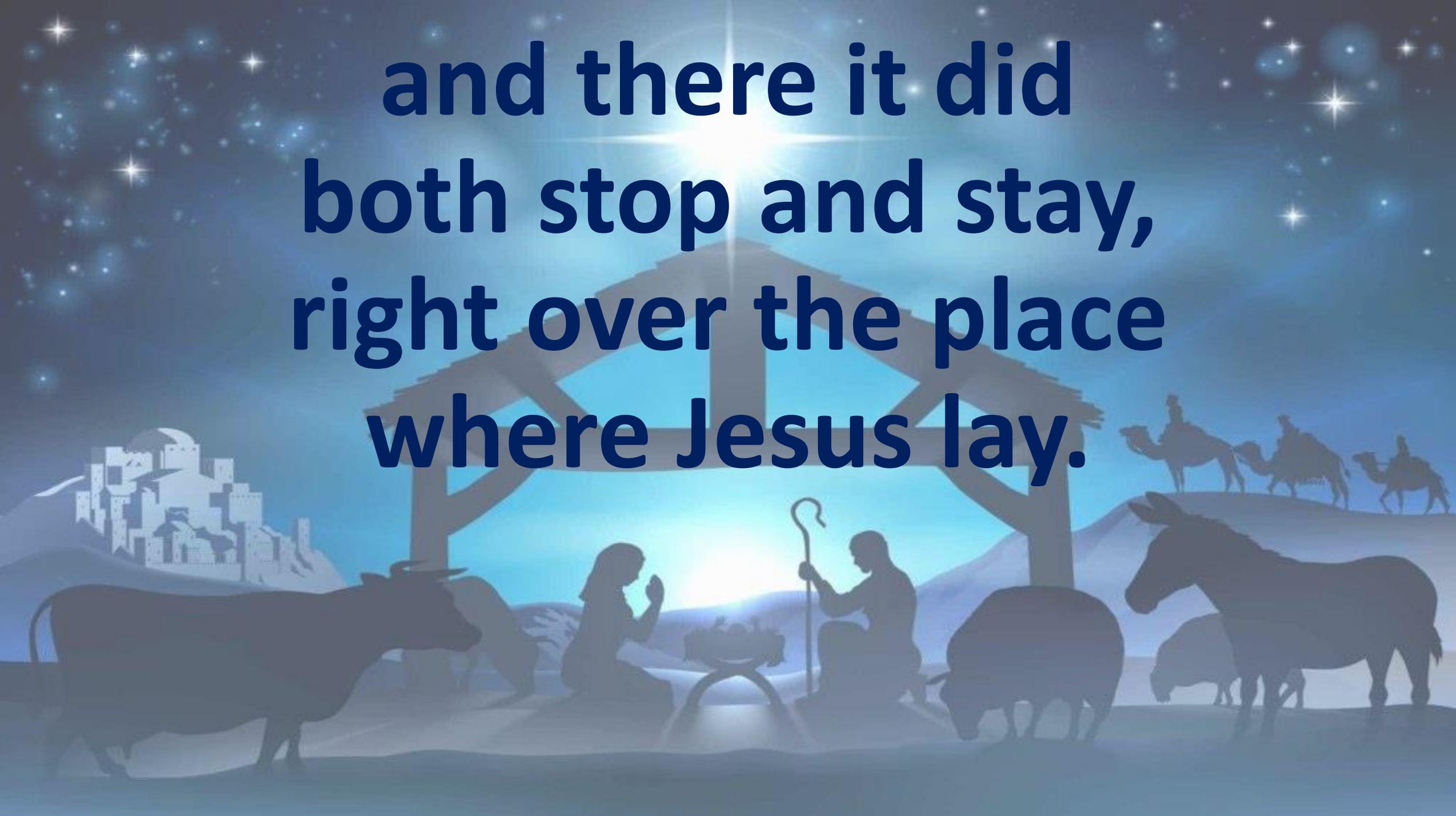
**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**



**This star drew nigh
to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem
it took its rest;**



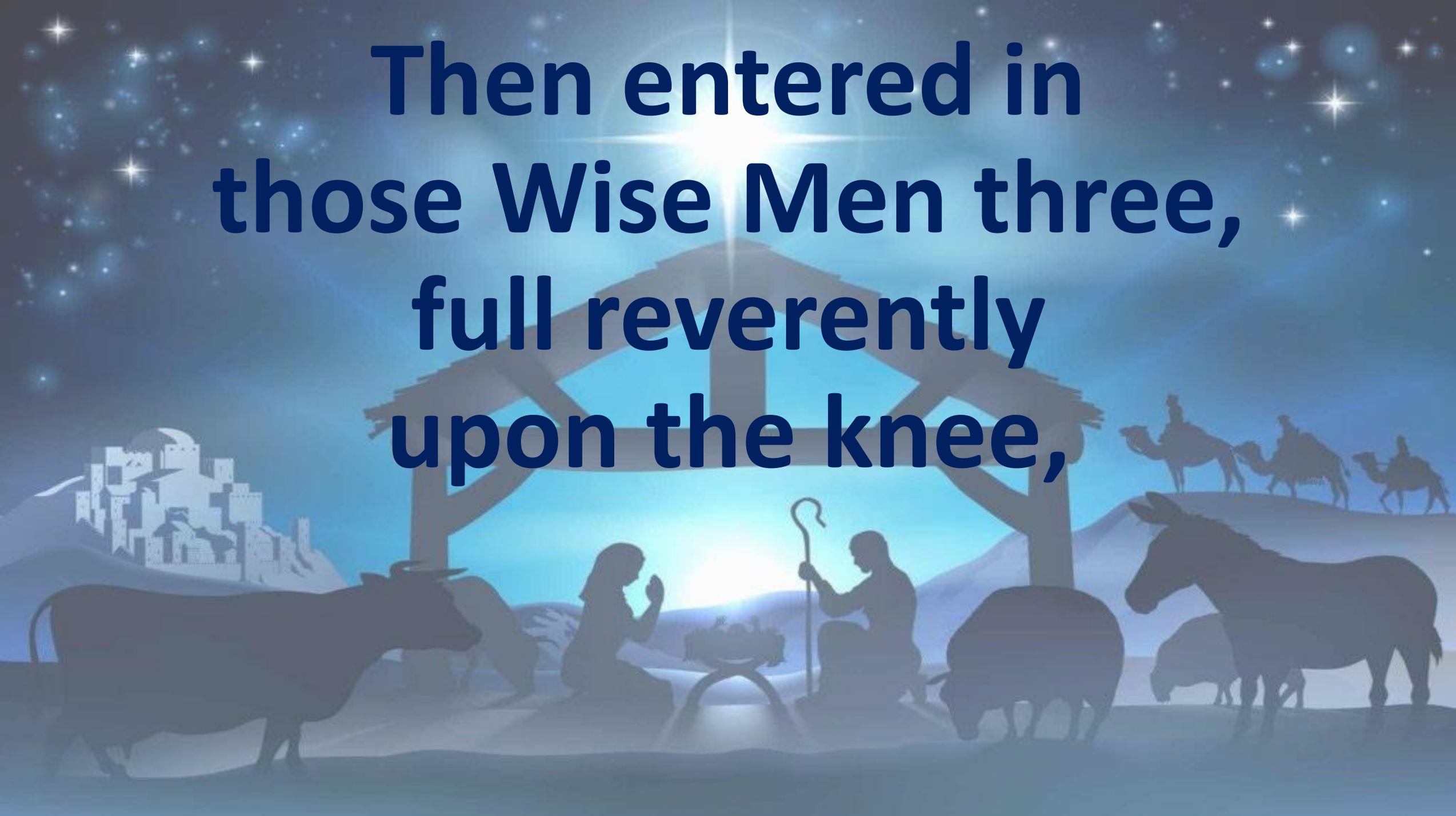
**and there it did
both stop and stay,
right over the place
where Jesus lay.**



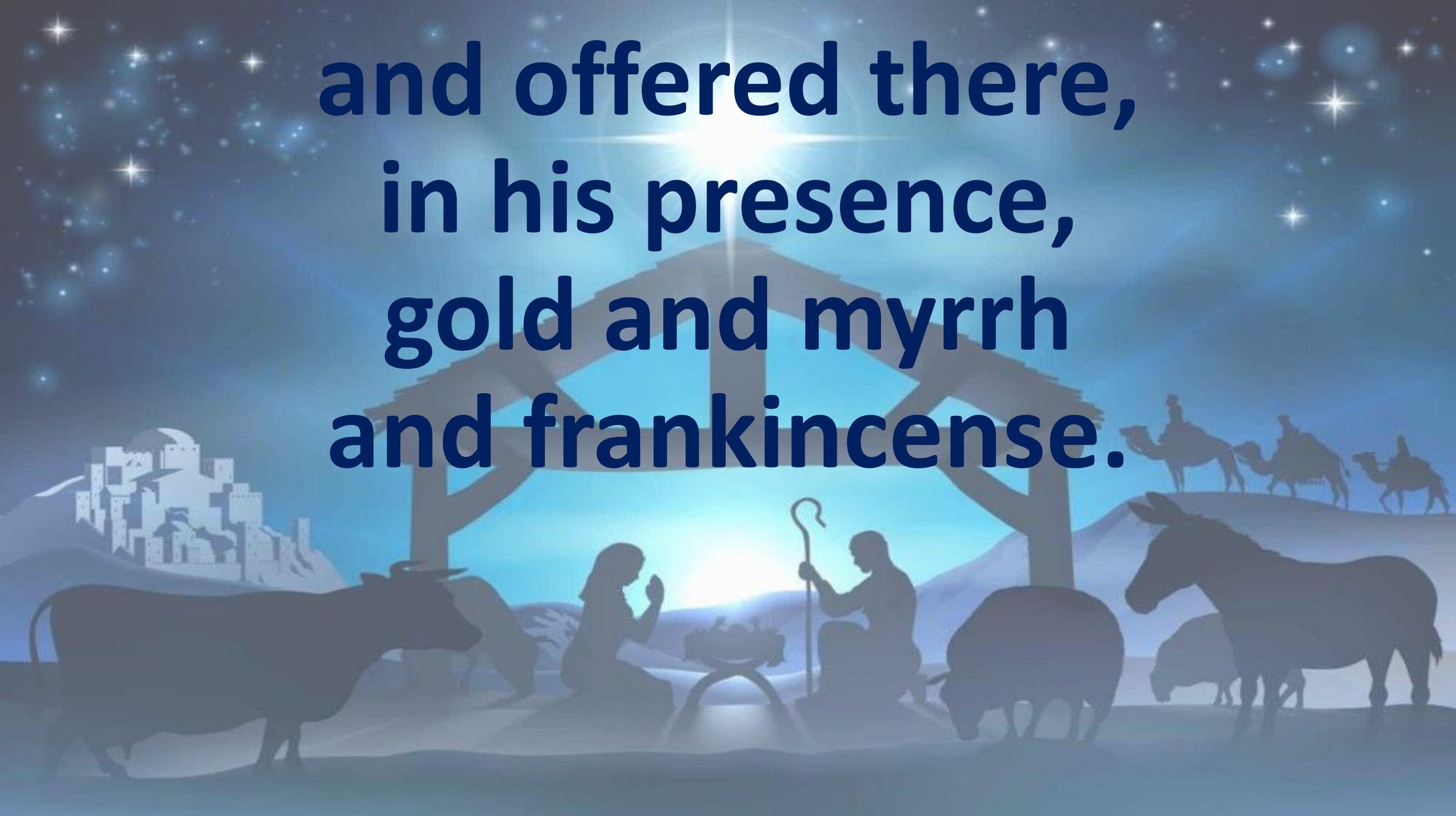
**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**



**Then entered in
those Wise Men three,
full reverently
upon the knee,**



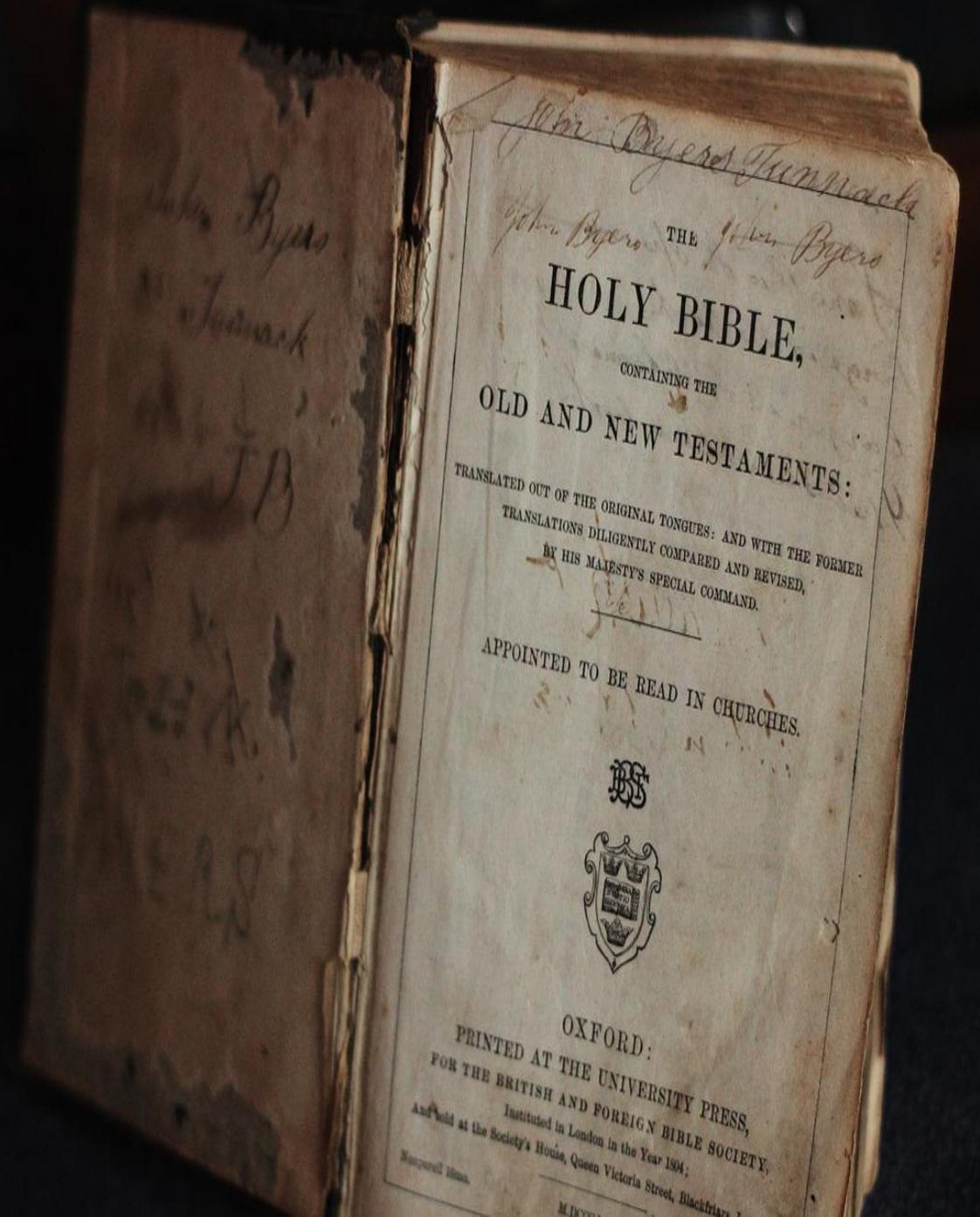
**and offered there,
in his presence,
gold and myrrh
and frankincense.**



**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**



OLD TESTAMENT:
ISAIAH
7:1-17



THE
NEW TESTAMENT
OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST,
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK: AND WITH THE
BEST TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED, BY
MAJESTY'S SPECIAL COMMAND.

Appointed to be read in Churches.

NEW TESTAMENT:
JOHN
3:1-17

Today's Message

**MESSAGE SERIES FOR ADVENT, PART IV:
THE GREATEST MESSAGE WE RECEIVE AT
CHRISTMAS IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN
GOD AND LOVE.**

Pastor Gary Spraker



Luke 1:26-38

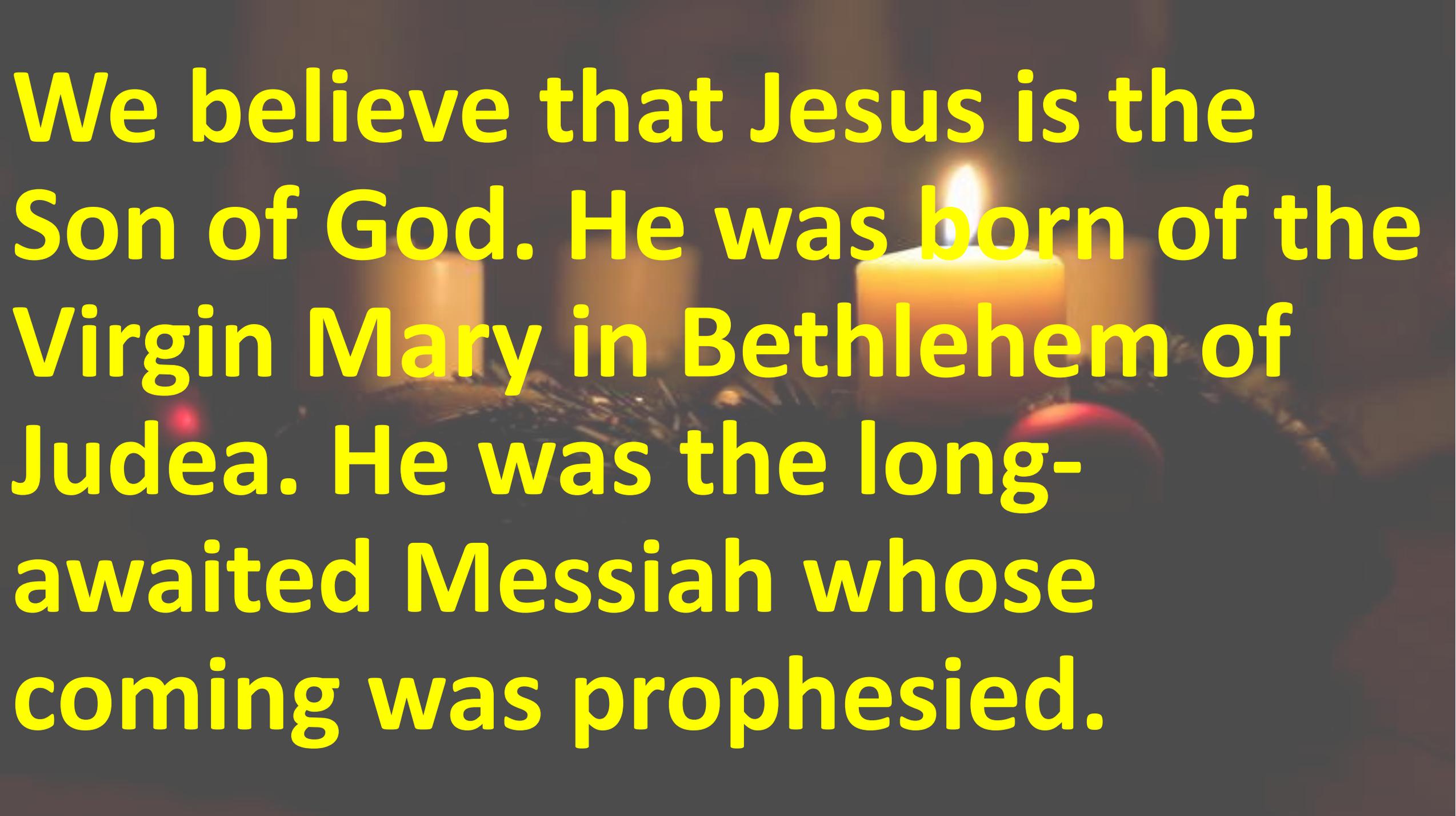
Our Christmas Affirmation



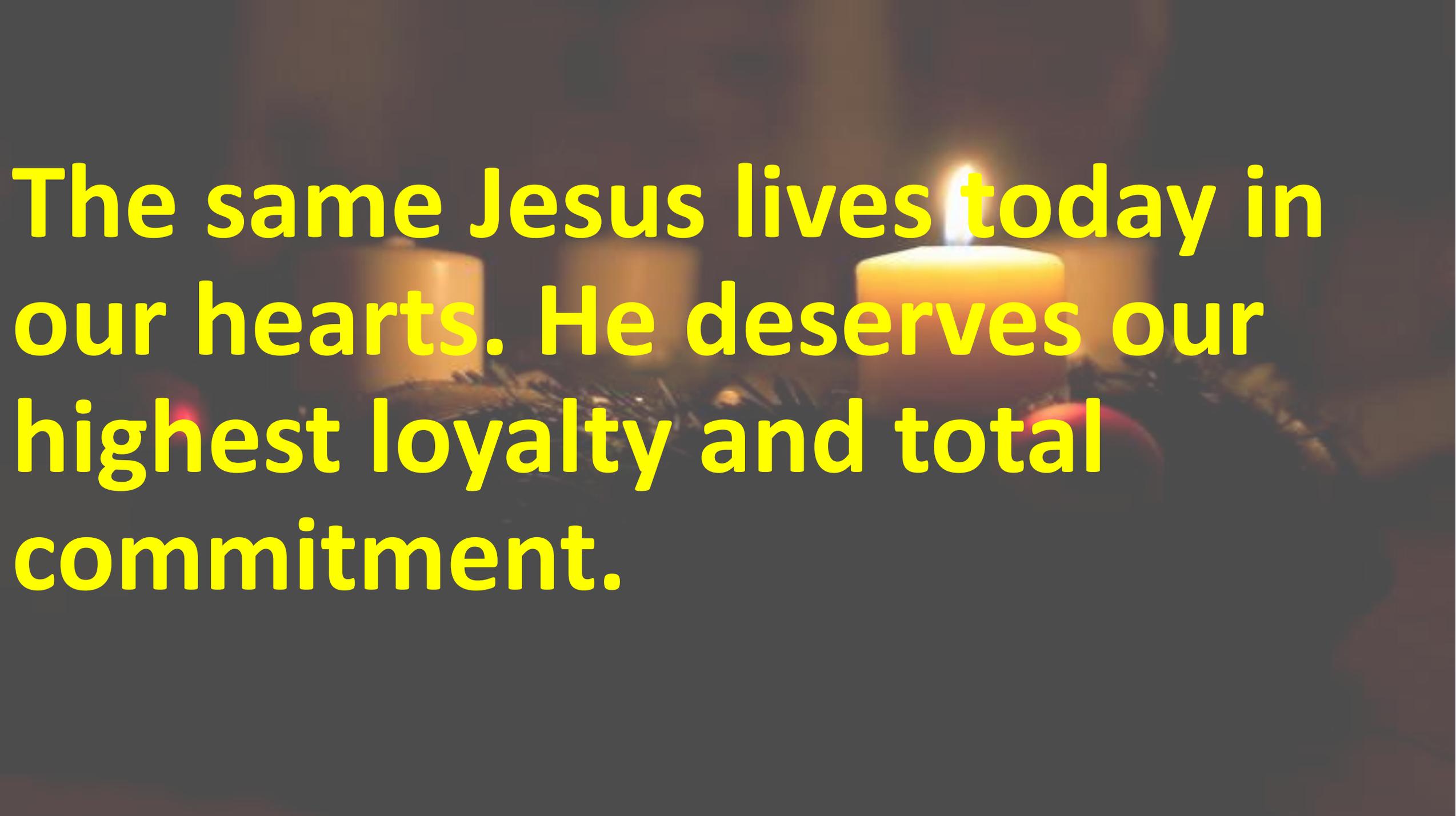
Advent hope moves us; Advent
love leads us; Advent joy stirs
us; Advent peace stills us, that
we might affirm our King Jesus.

A photograph of an Advent wreath with four candles. The central candle is lit, casting a warm glow. The other three candles are unlit. The background is dark, making the candles stand out.

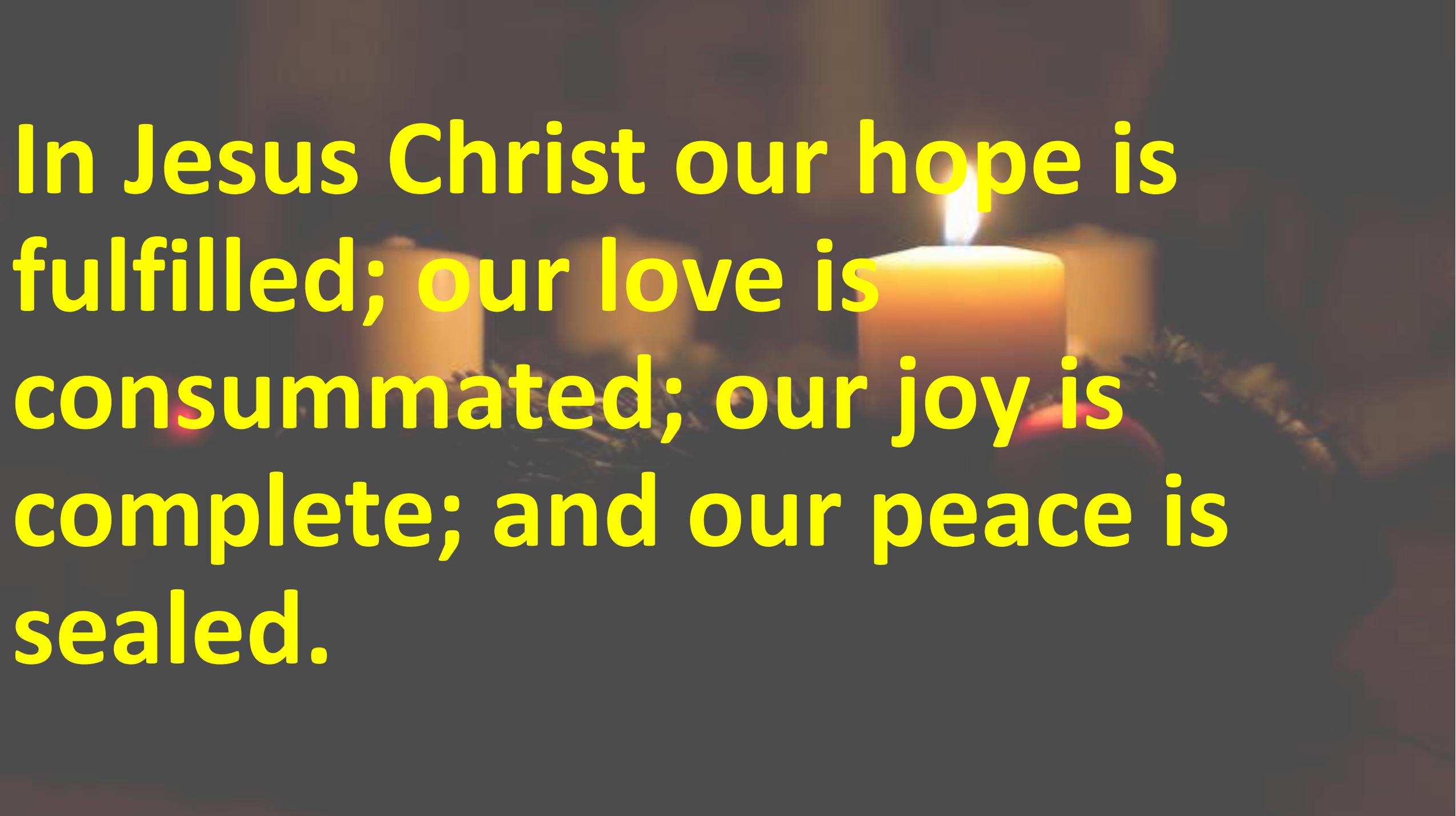
**It is time we set flame to this
Advent affirmation by lighting
the Christ Candle.**



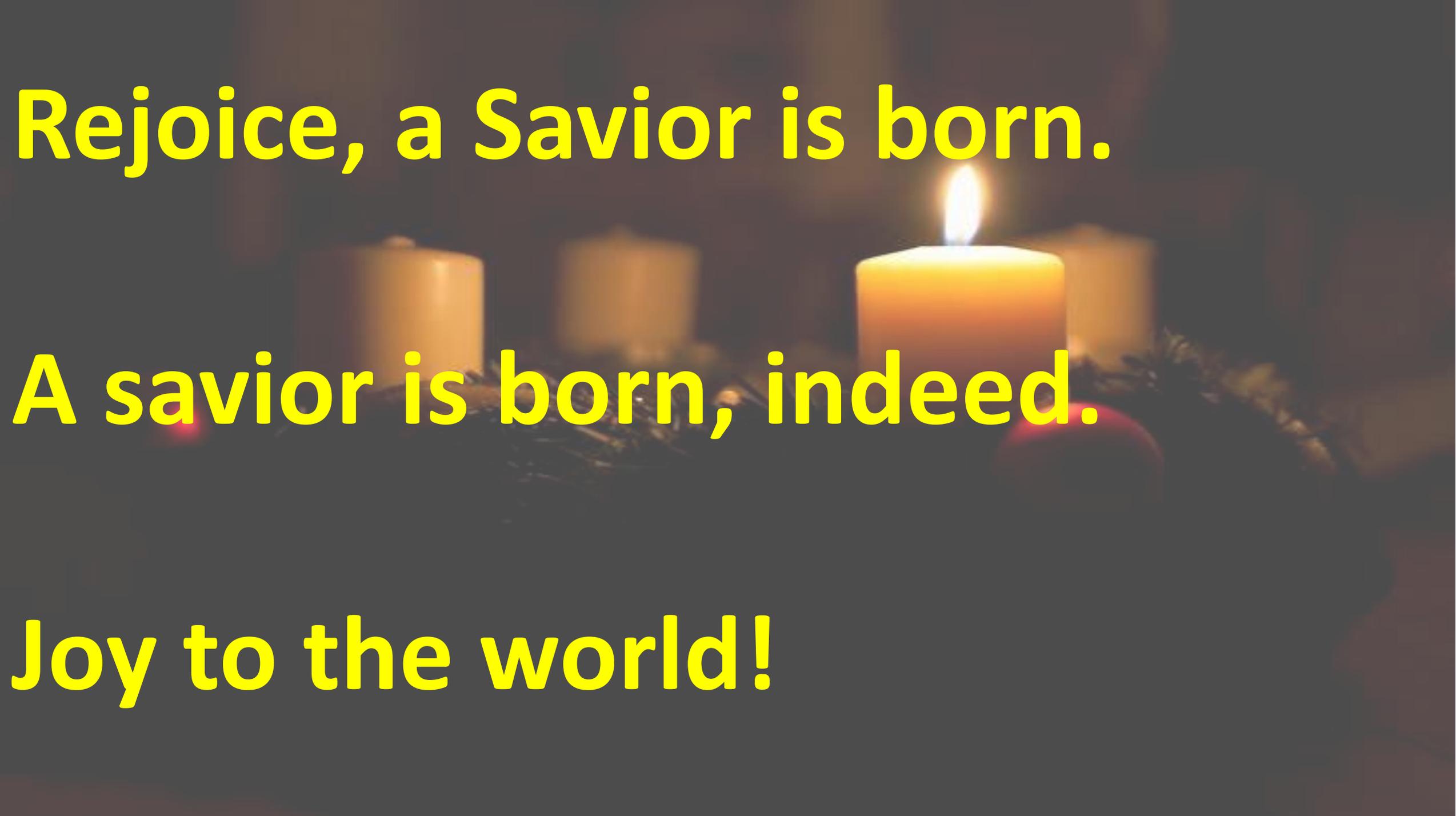
We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied.

A close-up photograph of several lit candles in a dark setting. The candles are lit, casting a warm, yellow glow. In the foreground, a red Christmas ornament is visible, partially obscured by the candles. The background is dark, with some blurred lights, suggesting a festive or religious setting.

**The same Jesus lives today in
our hearts. He deserves our
highest loyalty and total
commitment.**

A lit candle in a dark setting with other candles and a red ornament in the background.

In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

A lit candle in a dark setting with other unlit candles in the background.

Rejoice, a Savior is born.

A savior is born, indeed.

Joy to the world!

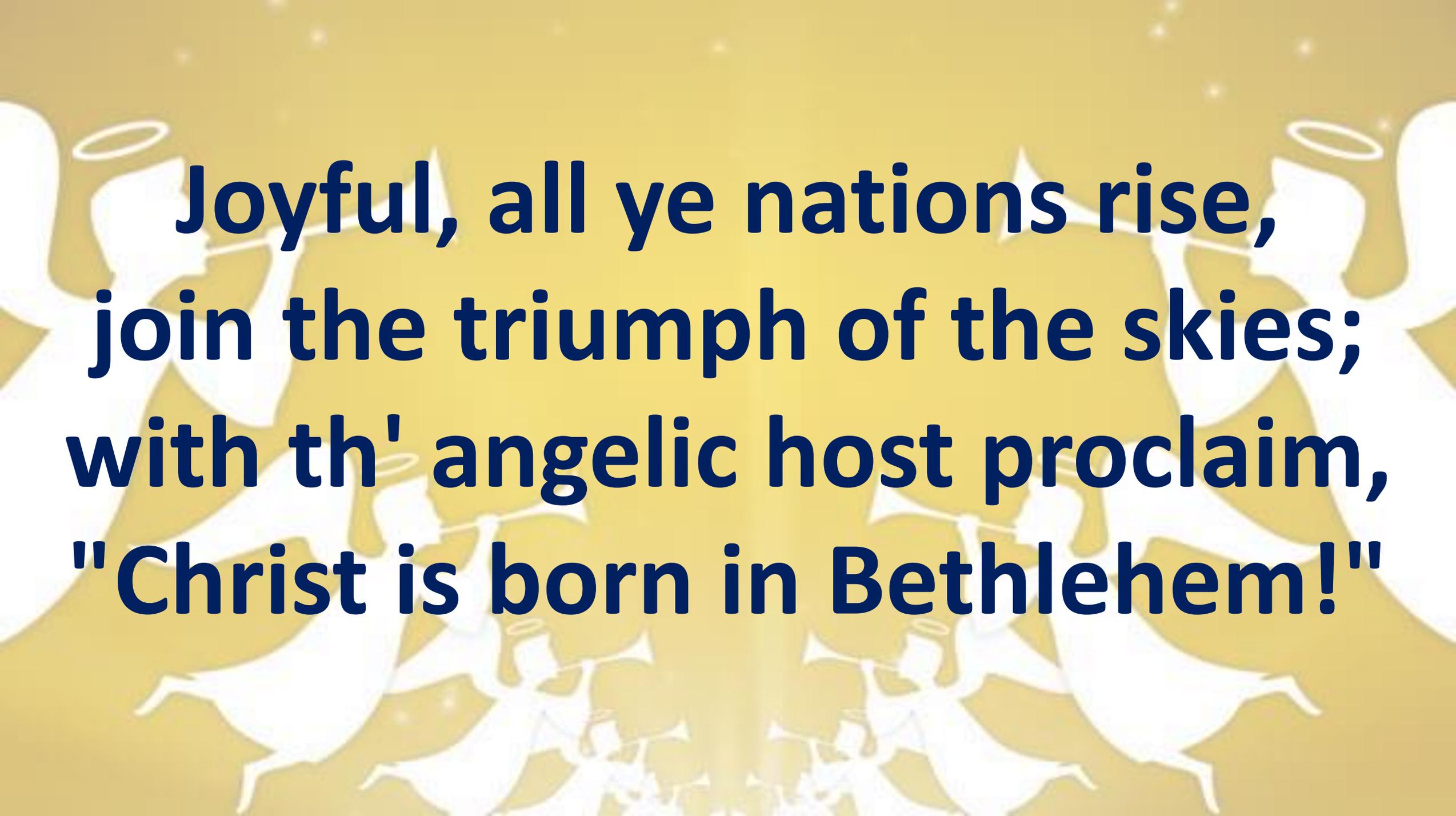
HARR!

The Herald Angels Sing

#240 UMH



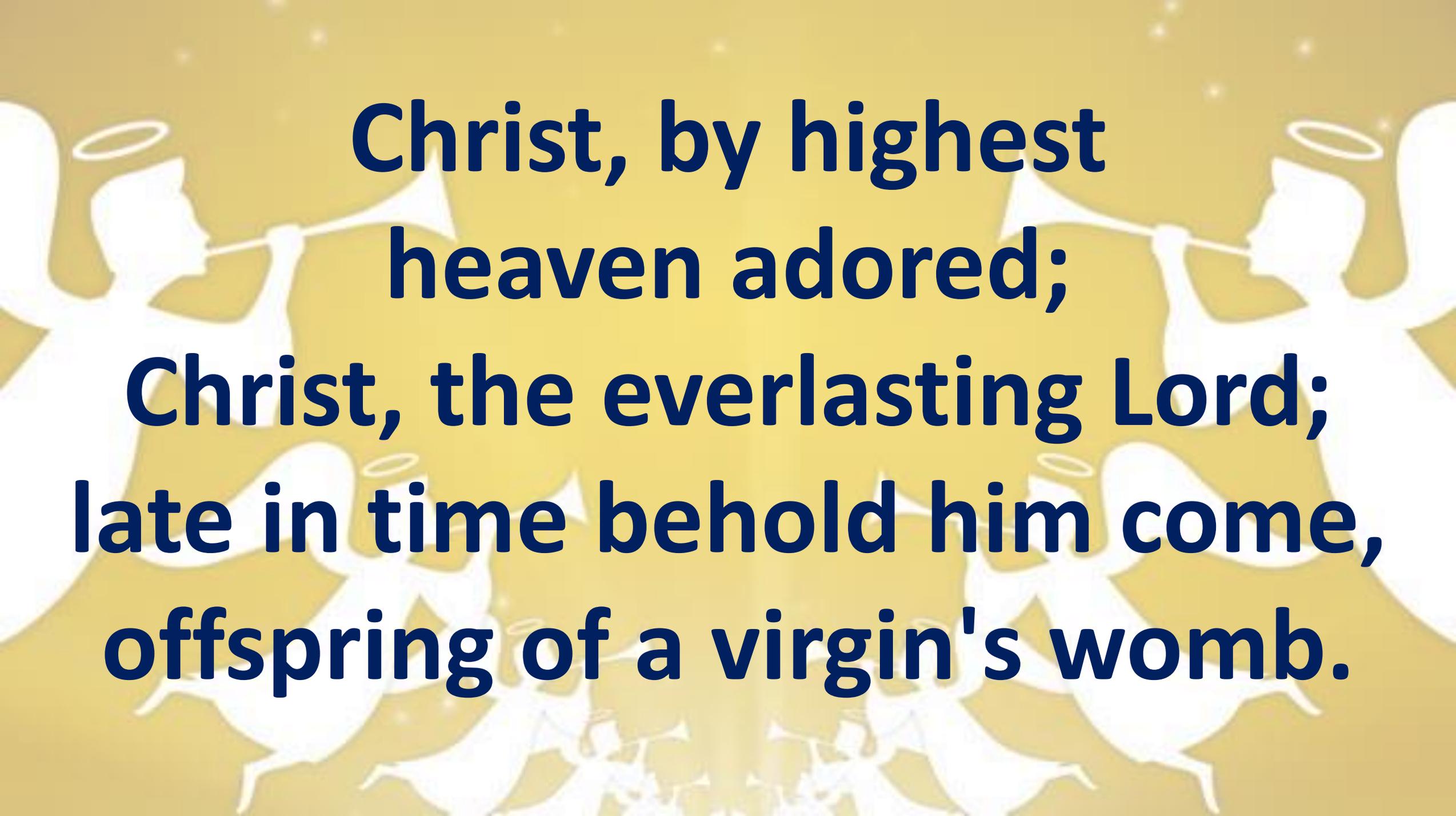
**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"**



**Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

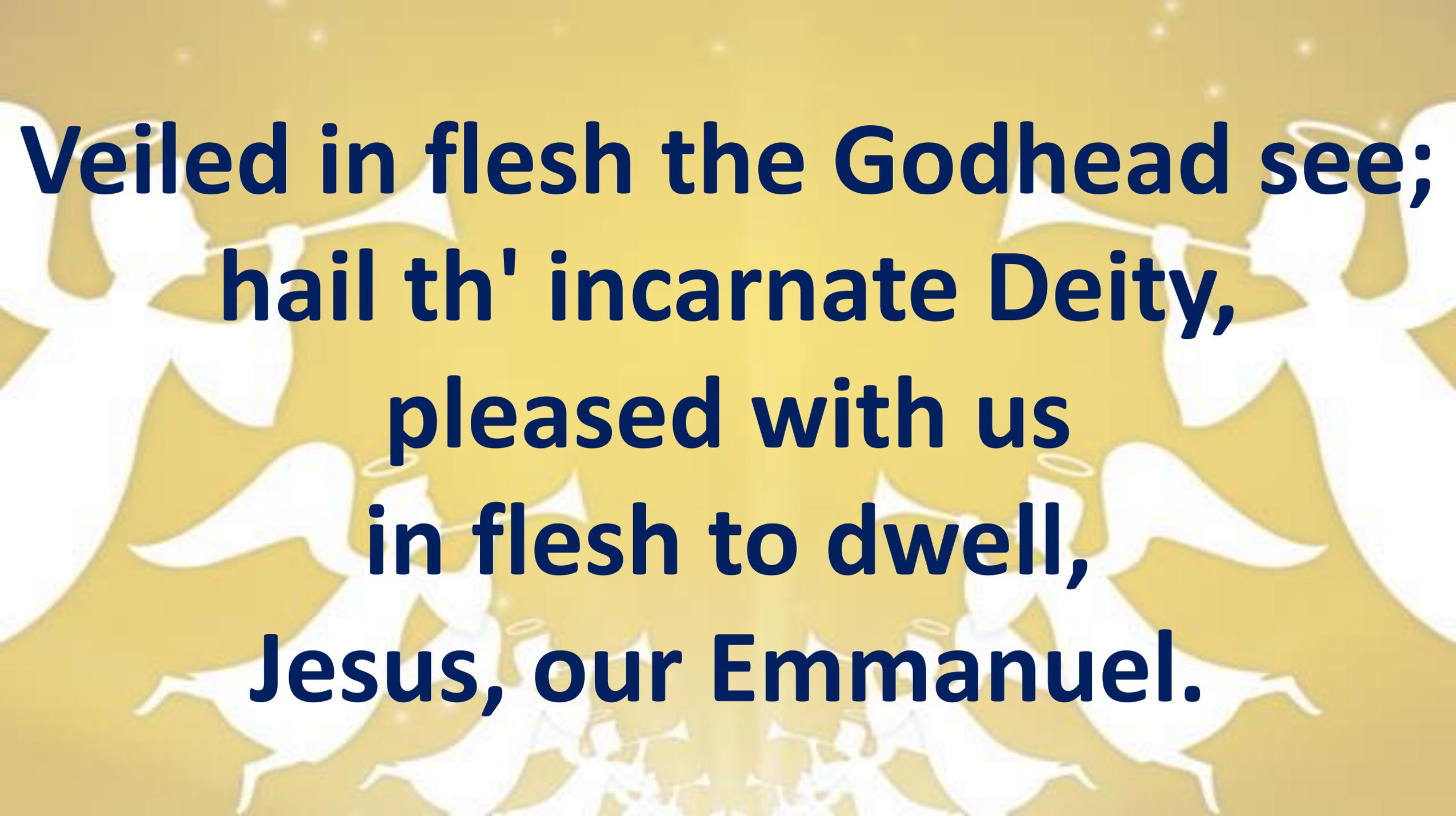
The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a subtle pattern of white silhouettes of angels. The angels are depicted in various poses, some playing trumpets. The overall style is clean and celebratory.

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"***

The background features a repeating pattern of white angel silhouettes with halos, set against a gold-to-white gradient. The angels are depicted in various poses, some with wings spread, creating a celestial atmosphere.

**Christ, by highest
heaven adored;**

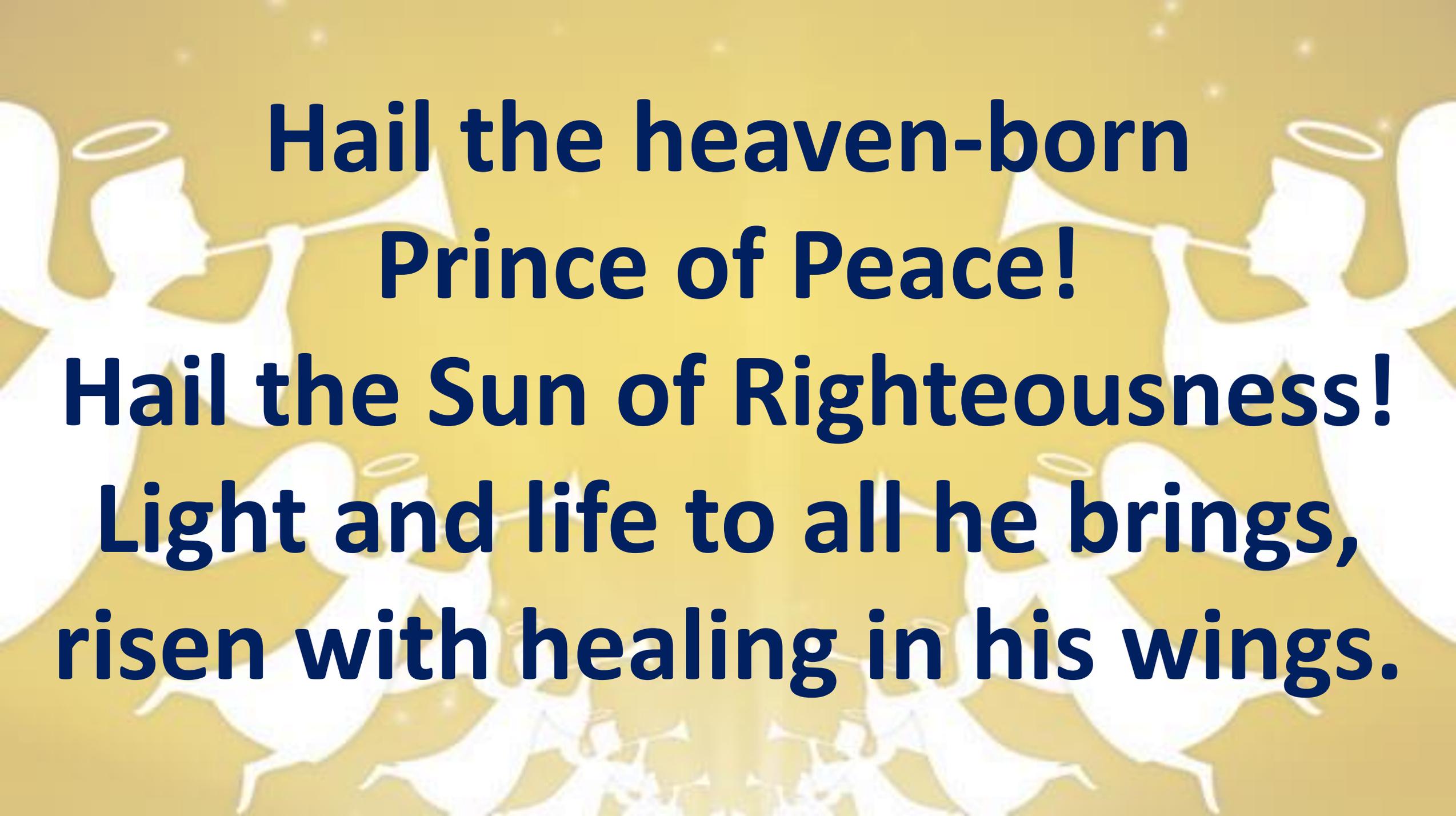
**Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.**

The background features a gold-to-yellow gradient with several white silhouettes of angels. The angels are depicted in various poses, some with wings spread, and some with halos. The text is centered and written in a bold, dark blue font.

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us
in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

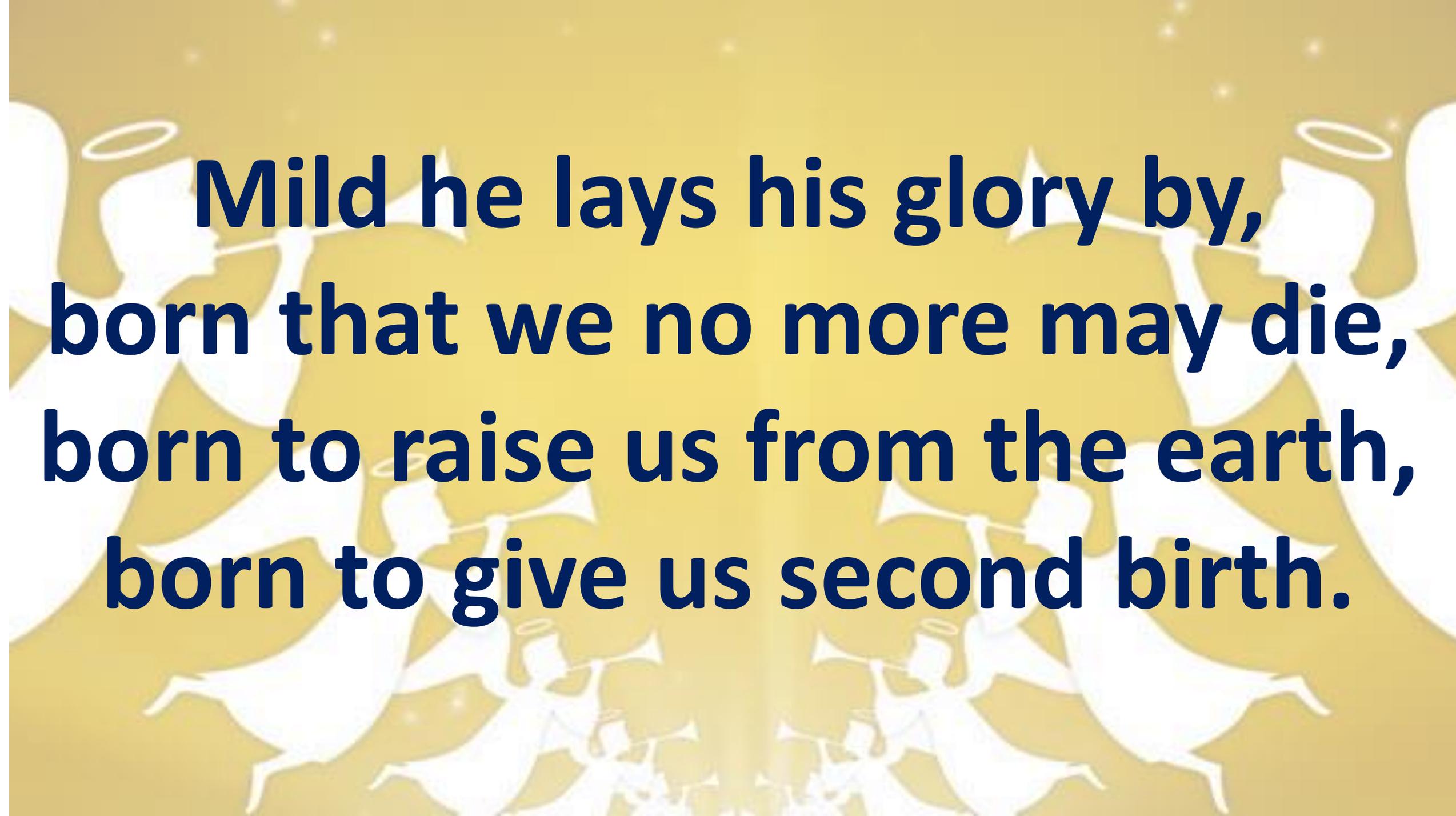
The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a subtle pattern of white silhouettes of angels. The angels are depicted in various poses, some playing trumpets. The overall style is clean and celebratory.

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"***

The background features a gold-to-white gradient with several white silhouettes of angels. Each angel has a halo and wings, and they are arranged in a pattern that suggests a choir or a group of celestial beings. The text is centered and written in a bold, dark blue font.

**Hail the heaven-born
Prince of Peace!**

**Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.**

The background features a repeating pattern of white, stylized angel figures with halos, set against a warm, golden-yellow background. The angels are depicted in various poses, some appearing to be in flight or dancing. The overall aesthetic is bright and celebratory.

**Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.**

The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a subtle pattern of white silhouettes of angels. The angels are depicted in various poses, some playing trumpets. The overall style is clean and celebratory.

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"***

May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace—
hearing His voice more clearly,
knowing His heart more deeply,
resting in His love more fully,
trusting His care more completely,
walking His pathway more peacefully,
knowing His presence more intimately,
blessed by His goodness more abundantly.