



# ADVENT ENCOUNTERS

A VISION OF THE BRIDE  
REVELATION 21:1-7

December  
22,  
2019

Pastor  
Gary  
Spraker

**Oriskany Falls United Methodist Church**



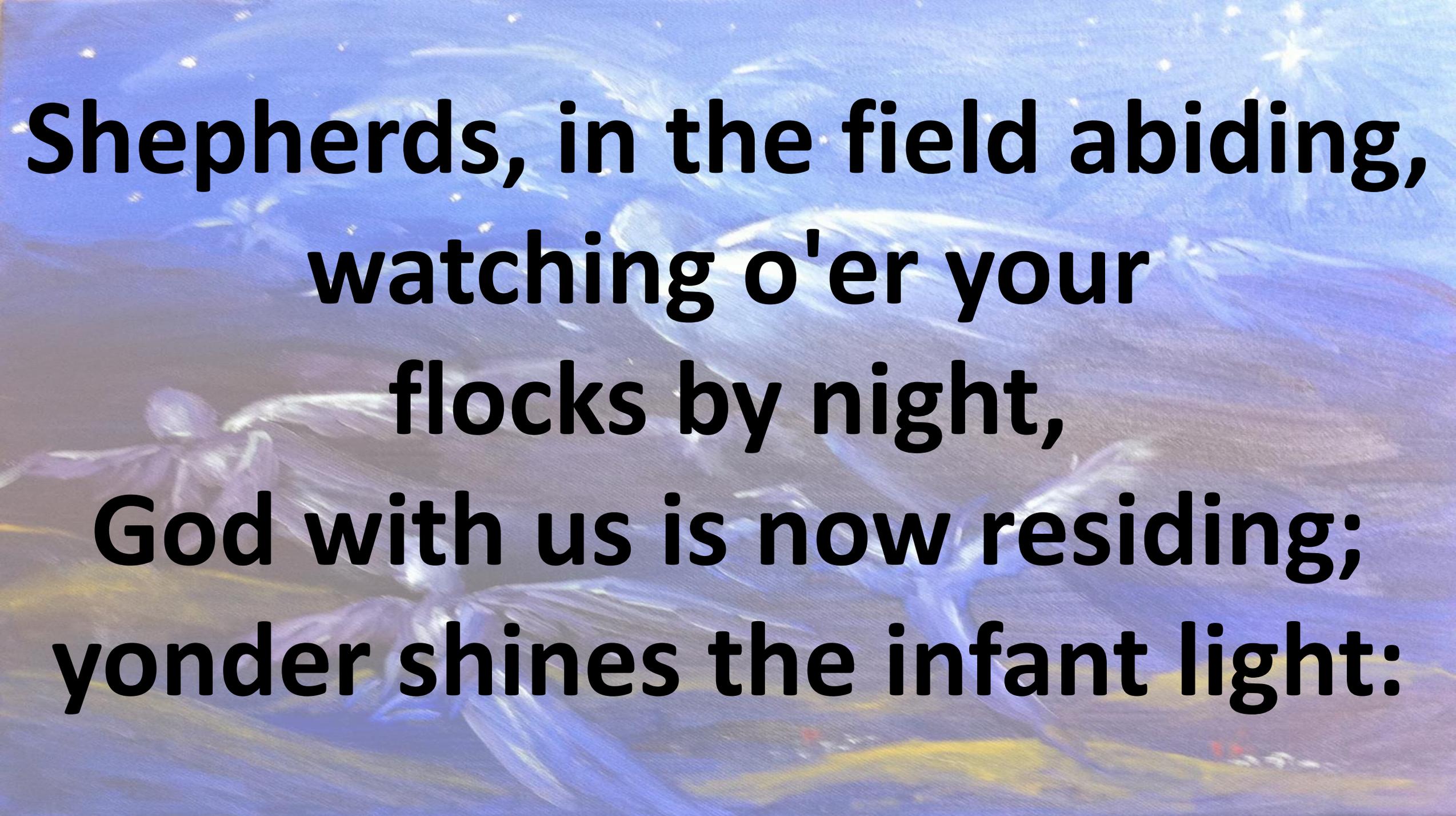
Angels from the Realms of Glory - #220 UMH

A painting depicting a celestial scene. In the foreground, several angels with large, feathered wings are shown in flight, their forms rendered in soft, ethereal tones. They appear to be moving across a landscape that is partially obscured by a hazy, golden light. The background features a dark, starry sky with a prominent bright star or light source in the upper right corner, casting a glow over the scene. The overall atmosphere is one of divine presence and celestial activity.

**Angels from the  
realms of glory,  
wing your flight  
o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

A painting depicting a night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner. Several angels with large, feathered wings are shown in flight, some appearing to be in the foreground and others further back. The sky is a deep blue with wispy clouds and small stars. The overall mood is serene and celestial.

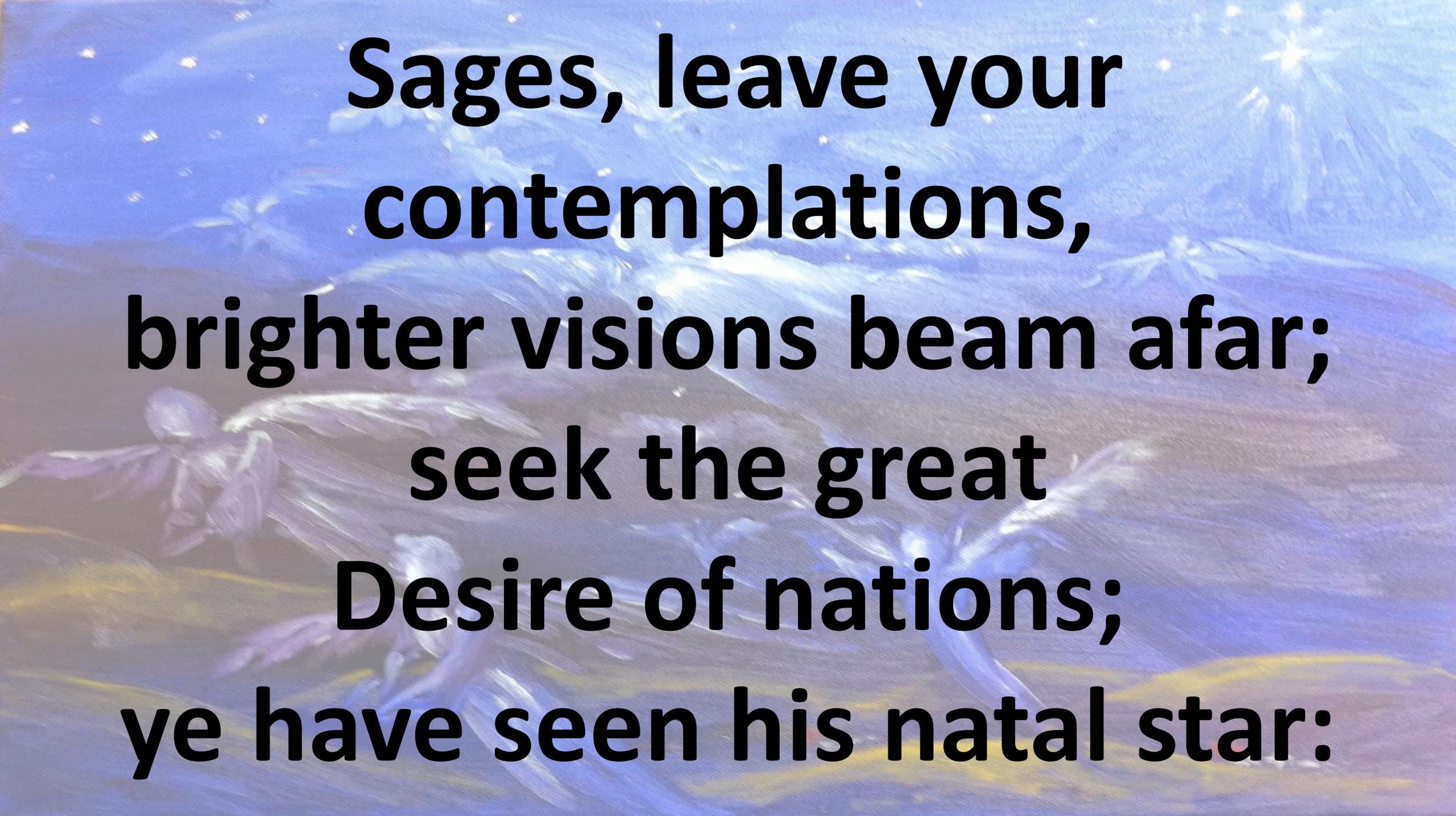
**Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ,  
the newborn king.**

A painting of a shepherd with sheep at night under a starry sky. The shepherd is on the left, wearing a white robe and a hat, holding a staff. The sheep are in the foreground and middle ground, some looking towards the viewer. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a bright star or light source on the right. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, purples, and yellows.

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your  
flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light:**

A painting depicting a night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner. Several angels with large, white, feathered wings are shown in various poses, some appearing to be in flight or kneeling. The background is a deep blue with lighter, wispy clouds or smoke. The overall style is reminiscent of classical religious art.

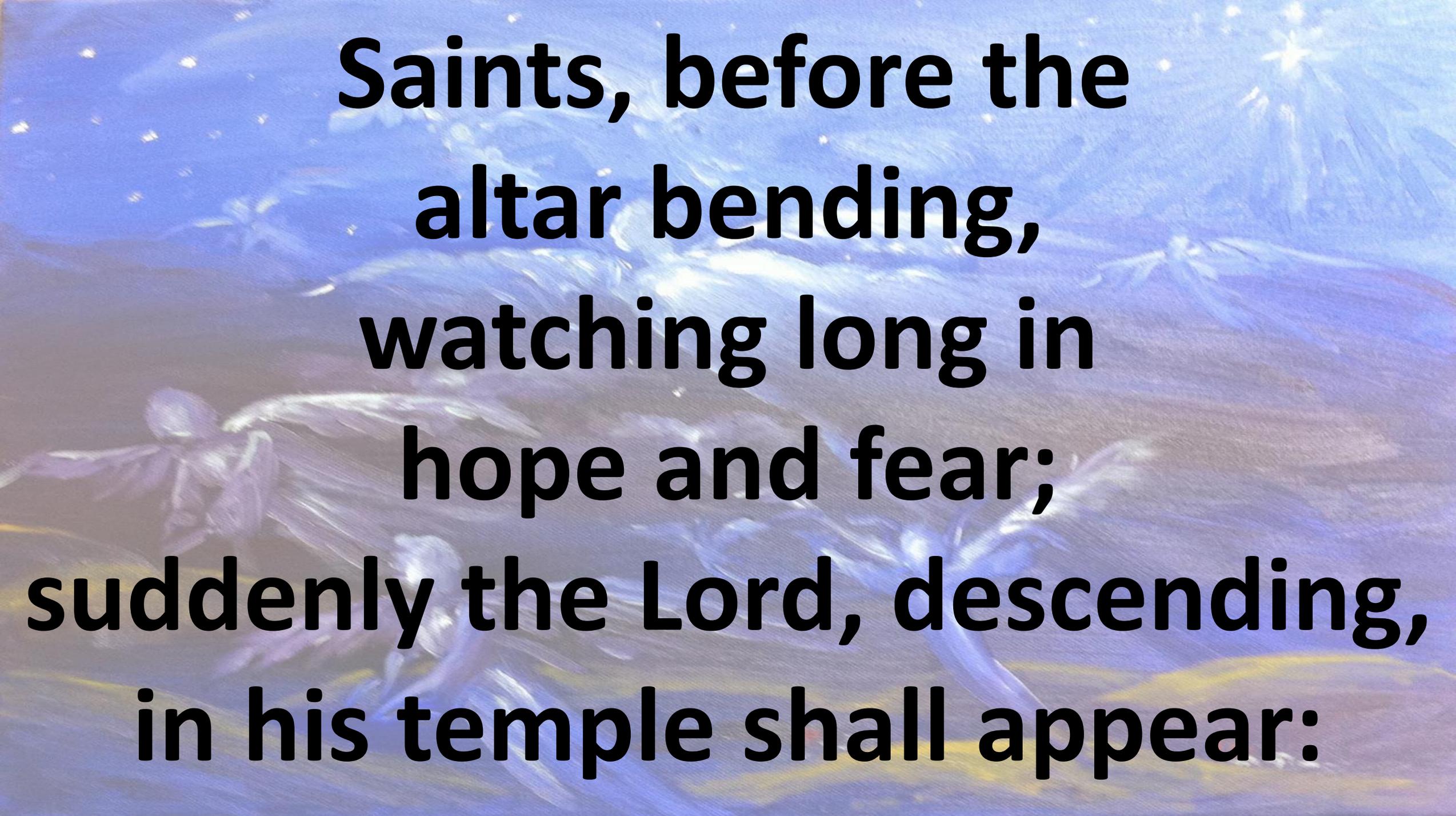
**Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ,  
the newborn king.**

A painting depicting three angels in a night sky. The angels are shown in profile, looking towards the right. They are wearing long, flowing robes. The background is a deep blue night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner. The overall style is classical and religious.

**Sages, leave your  
contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great  
Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:**

A painting depicting a night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner. Several angels with large, feathered wings are shown in various poses, some appearing to be in flight or kneeling. The background is a deep blue with lighter, wispy clouds or light trails. The overall style is reminiscent of classical religious art.

**Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ,  
the newborn king.**

A painting depicting a divine scene. In the center, a bright, glowing light emanates from a point, possibly representing the Lord's appearance. Several figures, likely angels or saints, are shown in various poses of prayer and awe. One figure on the left is kneeling with hands clasped. Another figure in the foreground is also kneeling, looking towards the light. The background is filled with soft, ethereal light and hints of architectural elements, suggesting a temple or a sacred space. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden, and reddish tones, creating a sense of holiness and divine presence.

**Saints, before the  
altar bending,  
watching long in  
hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear:**

A painting depicting a night sky with a bright star in the upper right. Several angels with large, feathered wings are shown in flight, some appearing to be in the foreground and others further back. The sky is a deep blue with white stars. The overall style is reminiscent of a religious or historical painting.

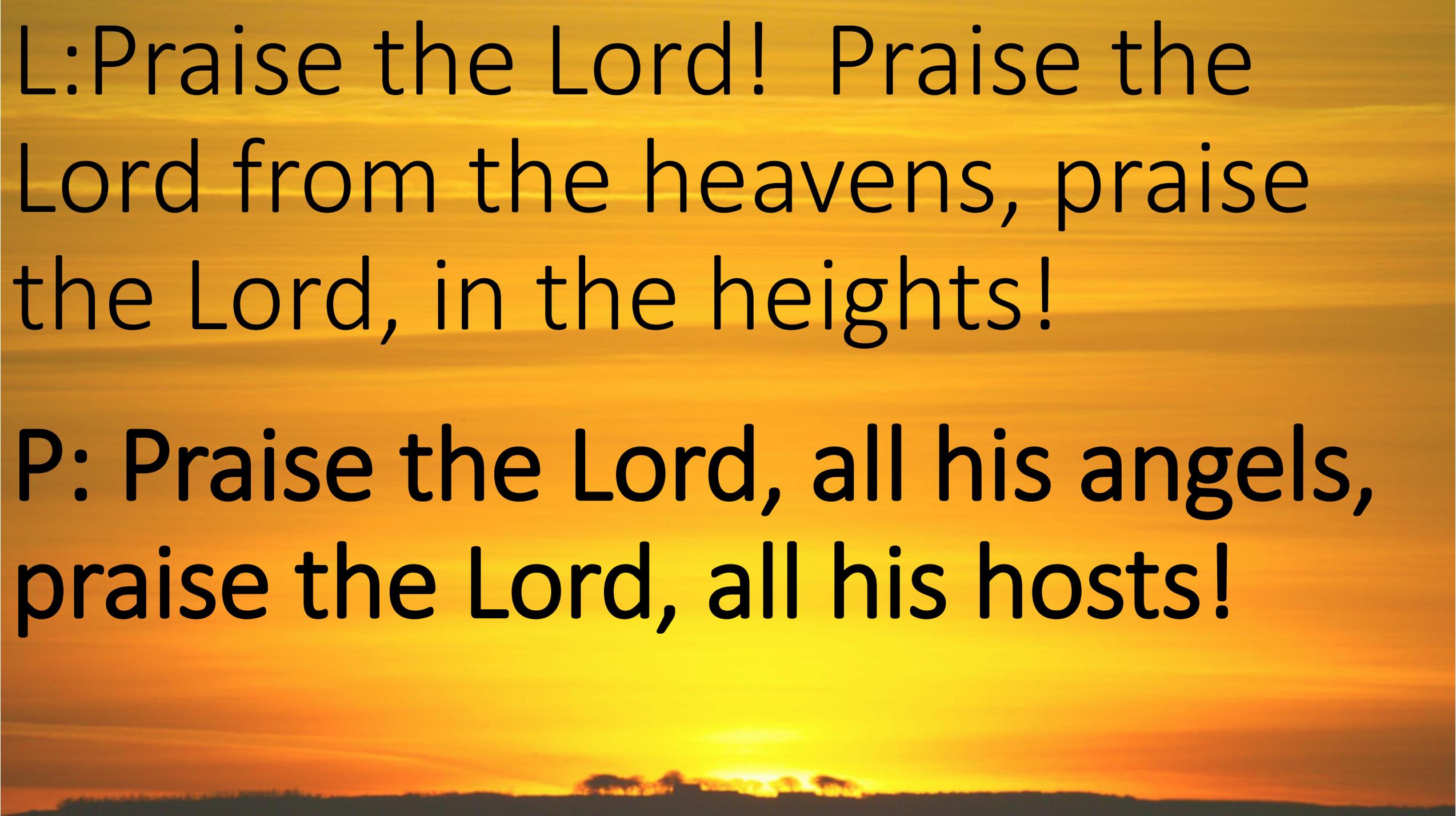
**Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ,  
the newborn king.**

The background of the image is a dark blue night sky. At the top center, there is a bright, multi-pointed star with a glowing crosshair effect. Below the star, the title "A CALL TO WORSHIP" is written in a large, blue, serif font with a slight shadow. At the bottom center, there are silhouettes of three figures: a man on the left, a woman on the right, and a child in the middle, all appearing to be in a state of prayer or worship. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

# A CALL TO WORSHIP

**PSALM 148:1-4**

**UMH #861**

A vibrant sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter yellow at the top. Silhouettes of trees and hills are visible along the bottom edge of the frame.

L: Praise the Lord! Praise the  
Lord from the heavens, praise  
the Lord, in the heights!

P: Praise the Lord, all his angels,  
praise the Lord, all his hosts!

L: Praise the Lord, sun and moon, praise the Lord, all shining stars!

P: Praise the Lord, highest heavens, and all waters above the heavens! Amen.

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRAYER CONCERNS & PRAISES**

**• G O D •**

*is*

**FAITHFUL**



# PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE



# *THE LORD'S PRAYER*

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.

Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen



# *Offering*



# *Doxology*

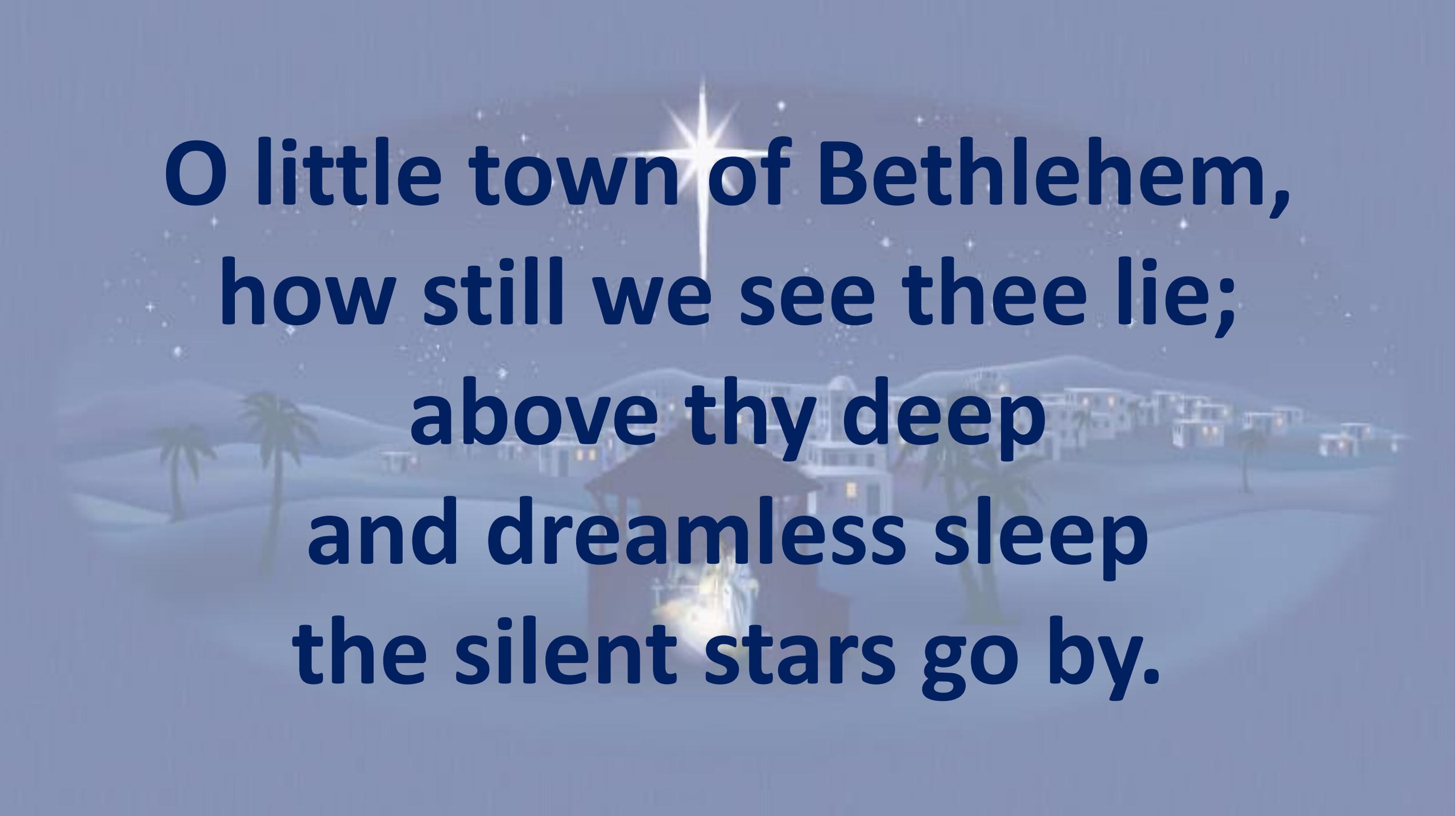
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.***



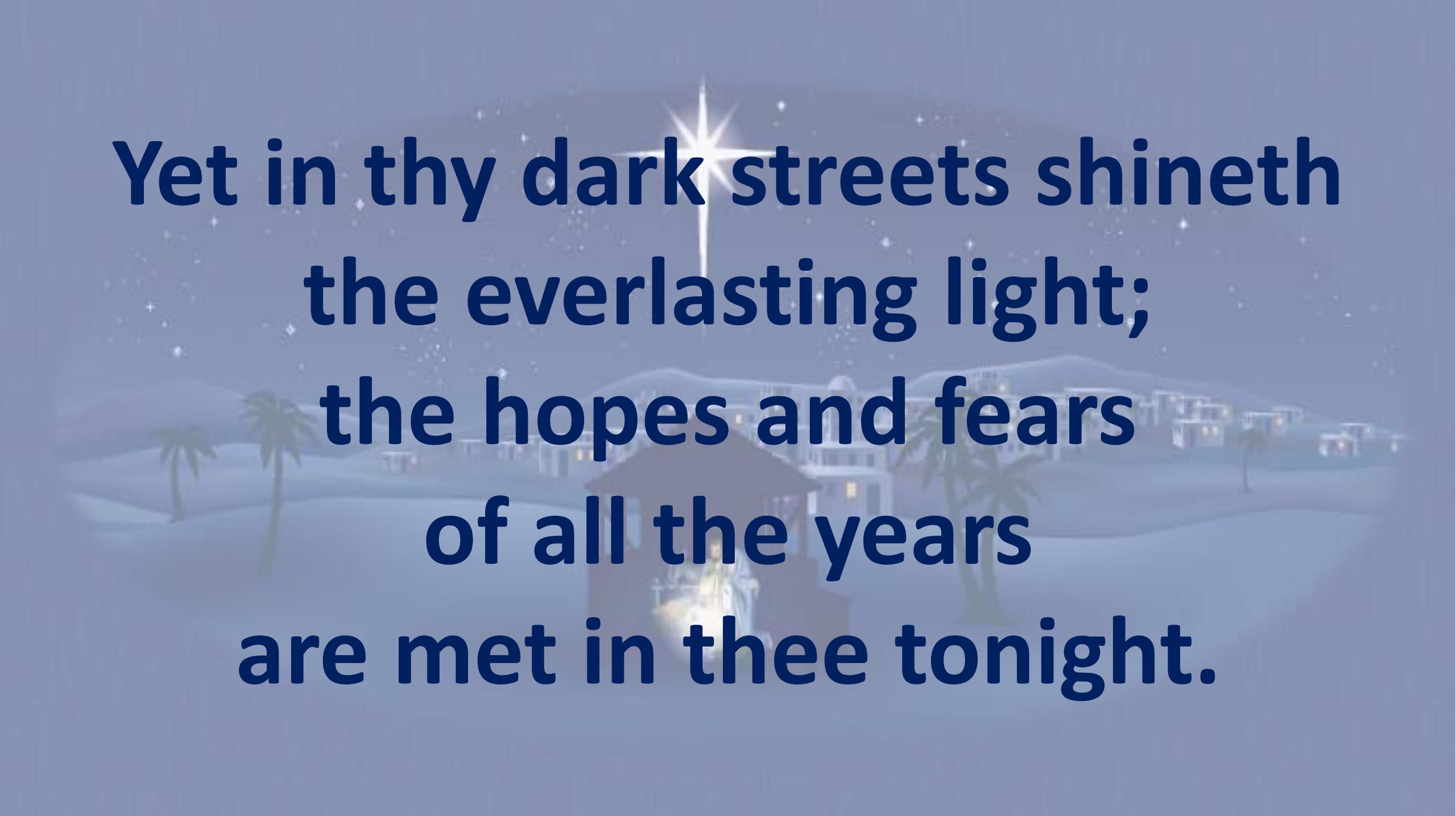


O Little Town of Bethlehem

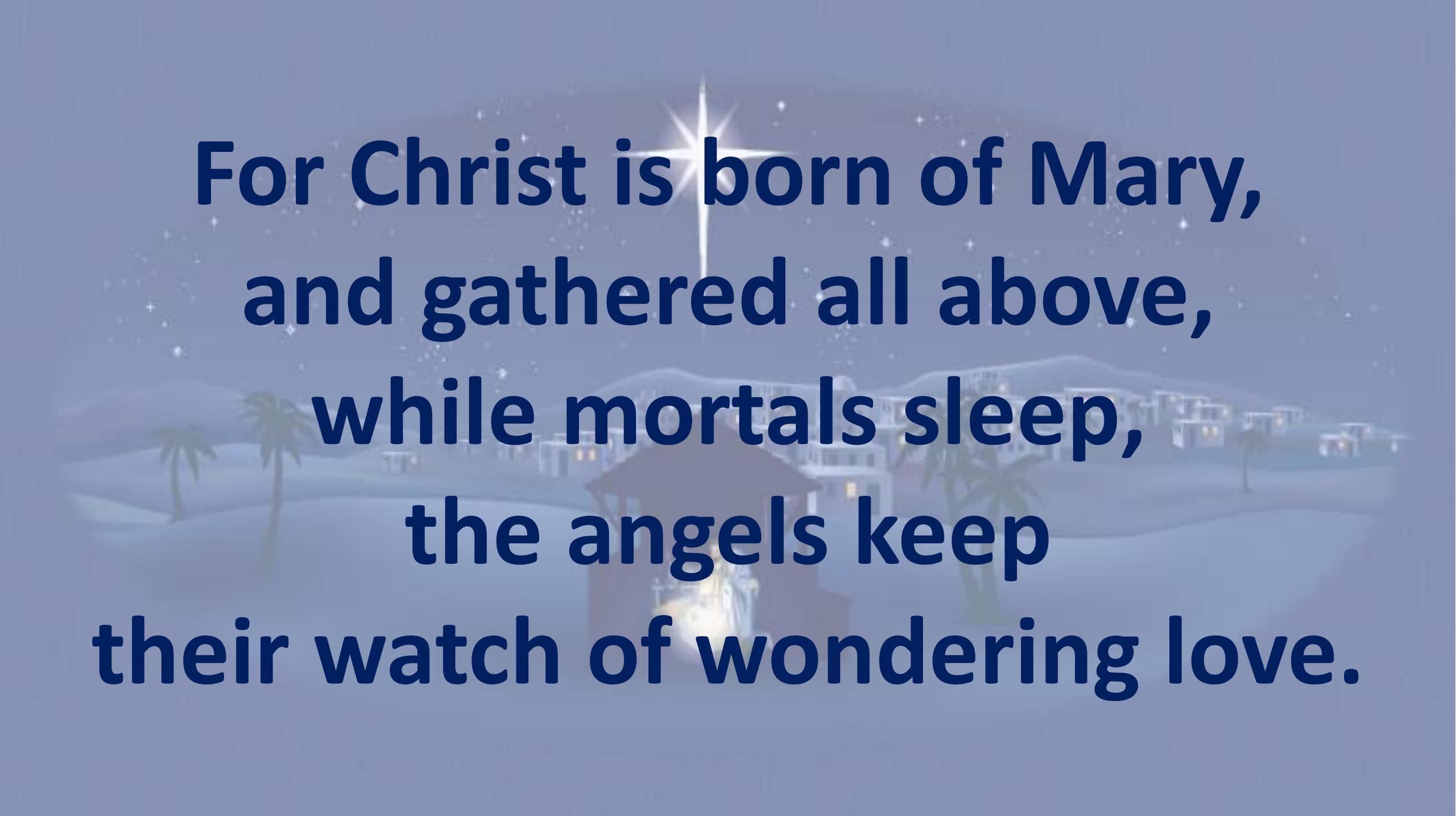
#230 UMH

A night scene of a town with a bright star in the sky. The town is illuminated with warm lights, and the sky is dark with a prominent bright star and smaller stars. The text is overlaid on the scene in a dark blue, bold font.

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep  
and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.**

A night scene with a bright star in the sky, palm trees, and a building with lights.

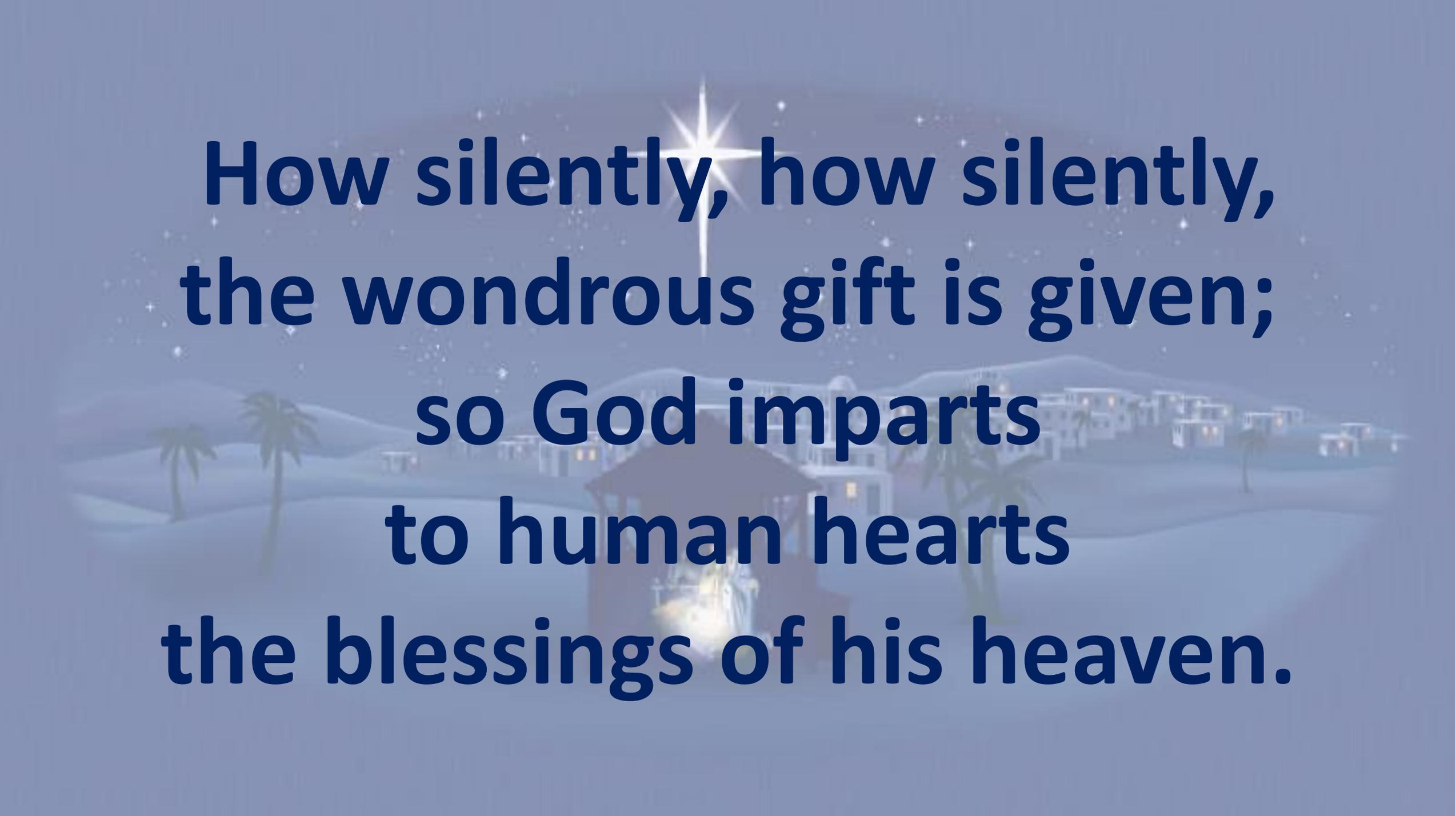
**Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears  
of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

A night scene with a starry sky, a bright star, and a town with palm trees. The text is overlaid on the image.

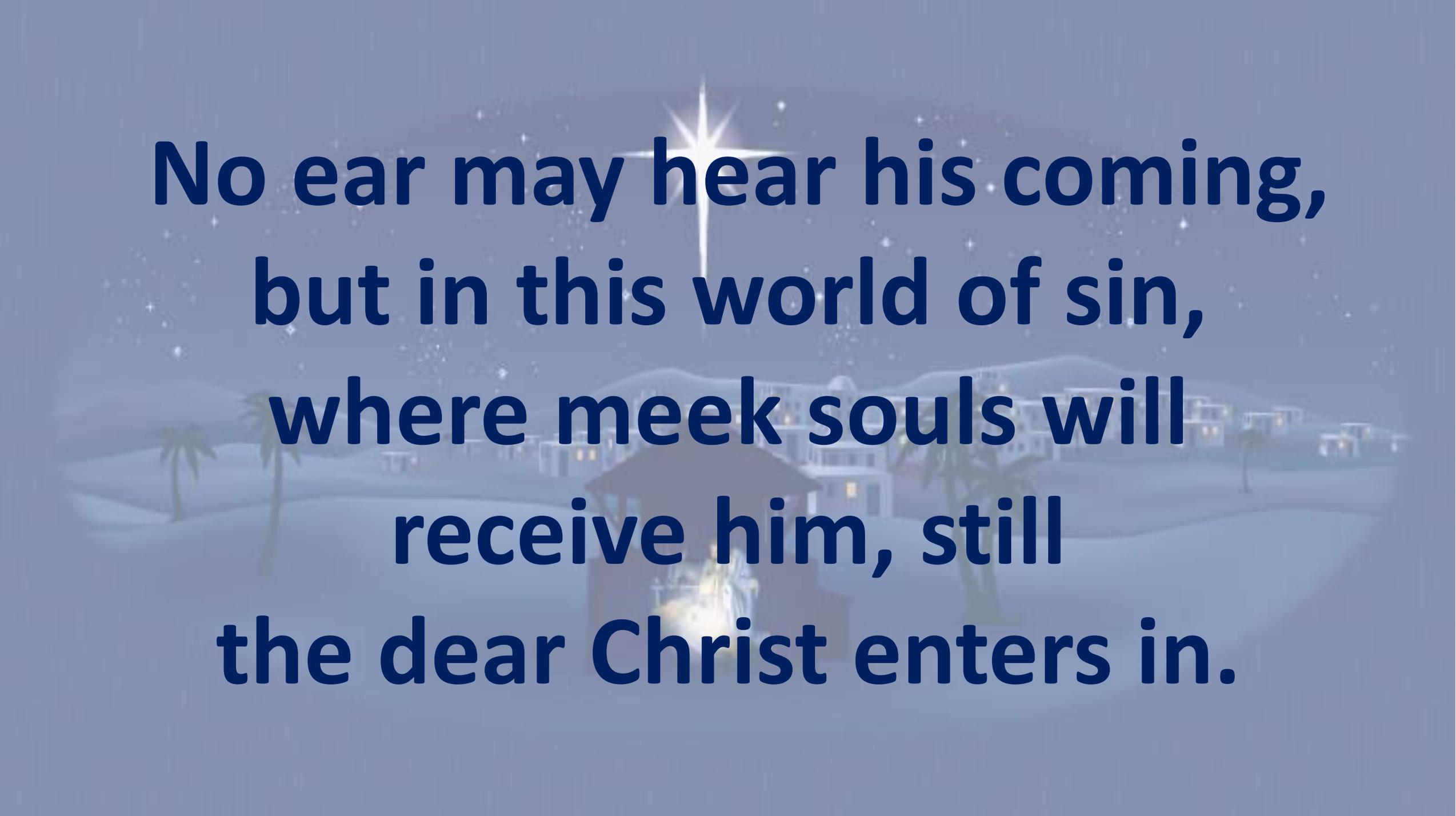
**For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep,  
the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.**

A night scene with a bright star in the sky, palm trees, and a building with lights.

**O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing  
to God the king,  
and peace to all on earth!**

A night scene with a bright star in the sky, palm trees, and a building with lights.

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts  
to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.**

A night scene with a starburst light in the sky, palm trees, and a building with a lit window.

**No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will  
receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

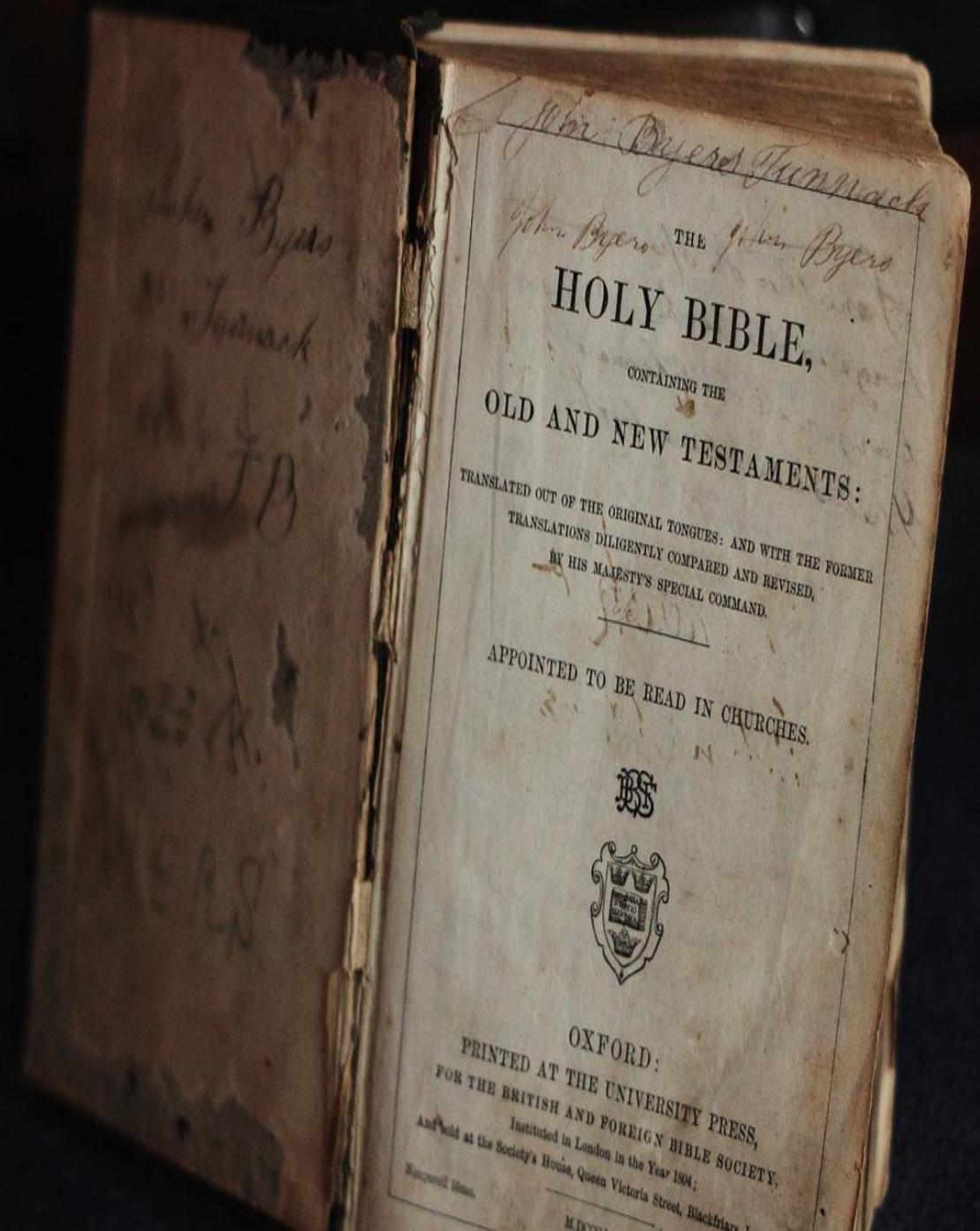
A night scene of a town with a bright star in the sky. The scene is rendered in a soft, blue-toned style. In the foreground, there are palm trees and a small, brightly lit building. In the background, there are rolling hills and a town with lights. A large, bright star with a cross-like shape is positioned in the upper center of the sky. The text is overlaid on this scene.

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin,  
and enter in,  
be born in us today.**

A night scene of a town with a bright star in the sky. The scene is dimly lit, with a large, bright star shining in the dark blue sky. The town below is illuminated by warm lights from buildings and street lamps. In the foreground, there are palm trees and a small structure, possibly a church or a house, with a glowing light emanating from it. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and festive.

**We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
o come to us,  
abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!**

OLD TESTAMENT:  
ISAIAH  
25:6-8



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

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Appointed to be read in Churches.

NEW  
TESTAMENT:  
REVELATION  
21:1-7

# Today's Message

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:  
WE MOVE FROM EXPECTATION  
TO GLORIFICATION.**

Pastor Gary Spraker



# HOLY COMMUNION

“DO THIS IN  
REMEMBRANCE  
OF ME.”



**L: We put our trust in Jesus Christ who said: "I am the bread of life."**

**C: We are fed by the body of Christ and by the Word of God which is our food.**

**L: We are nourished and sustained by God's life-giving Spirit.**

**C: We receive Christ's promise to fill our hunger and quench our thirst.**

**L: Christ gives life to the world through His broken body and spilled blood.**

**C: We come to Christ's table to receive His gifts with joy.**

All: Christ is our living bread!  
Thanks be to God!

L: In the same way He took the cup  
and said:

All: “Drink this all of you. This is the blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

L: Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

L: Father, in obedience to Your Son Jesus Christ, we celebrate with this bread and this cup, His victory on the cross, lifting our hearts to you in joyful thanksgiving.

L: We praise You for Your whole creation, that through it we may see your glory; and we thank you, that as Jesus Christ, we die to sin and are raised to new life.

**All: Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again!**

L: Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread, which we break, is a sharing in the body of Christ.

L: The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ. By Your Holy Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world. **Amen.**

L: What a precious gift that we do not remain broken and burdened by our sin! Jesus Christ forgives us, renewing us to walk in freedom and power. Thanks be to God.  
**Amen.**

L: On the night he was betrayed,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to  
God, broke it and said:

**All: “Take and eat. This is my  
body which is given for you. Do  
this in remembrance of Me.”**



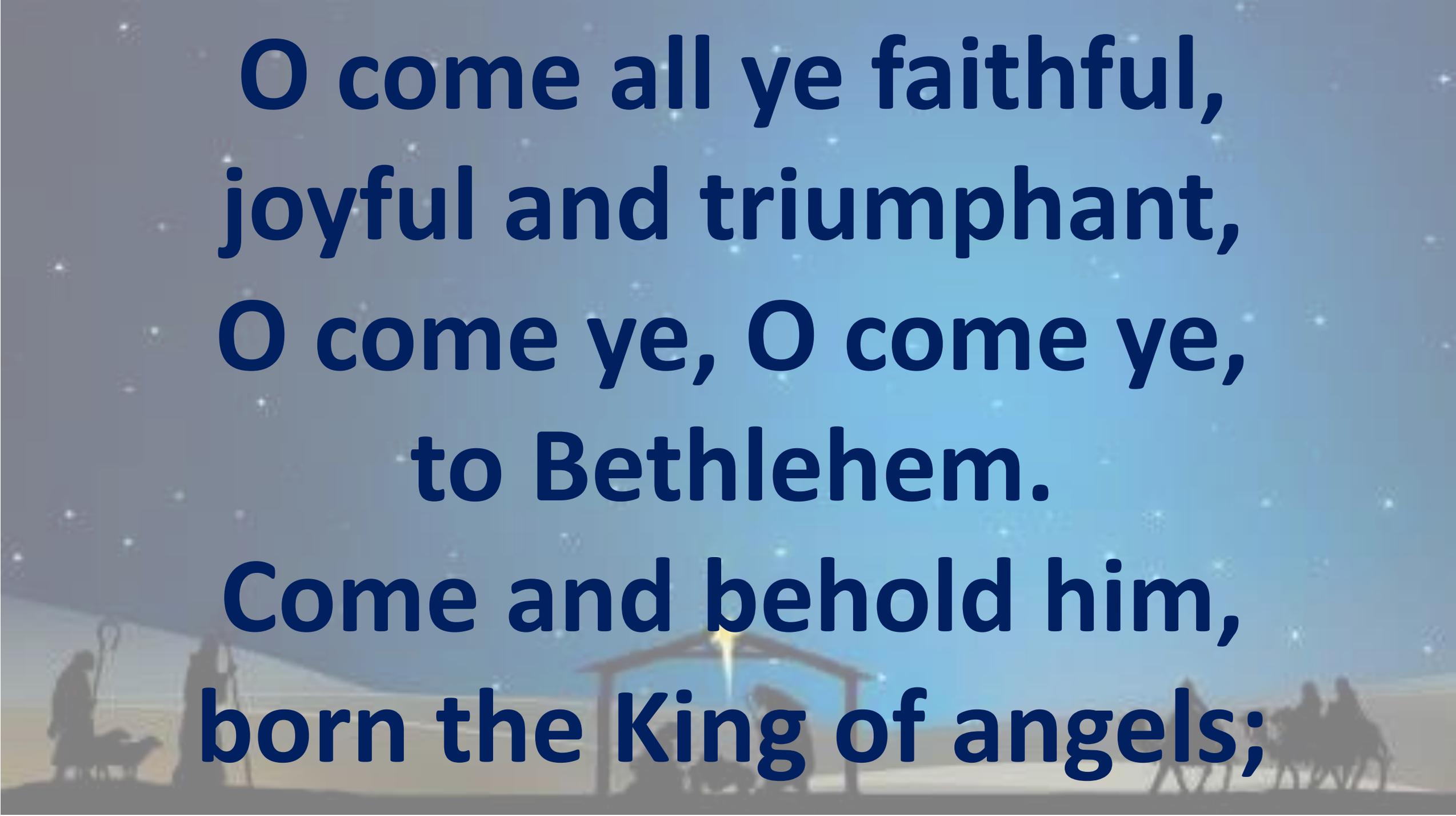
**COME TO THE TABLE**  
& live a new life

# O Come all Ye Faithful



#234 UMH

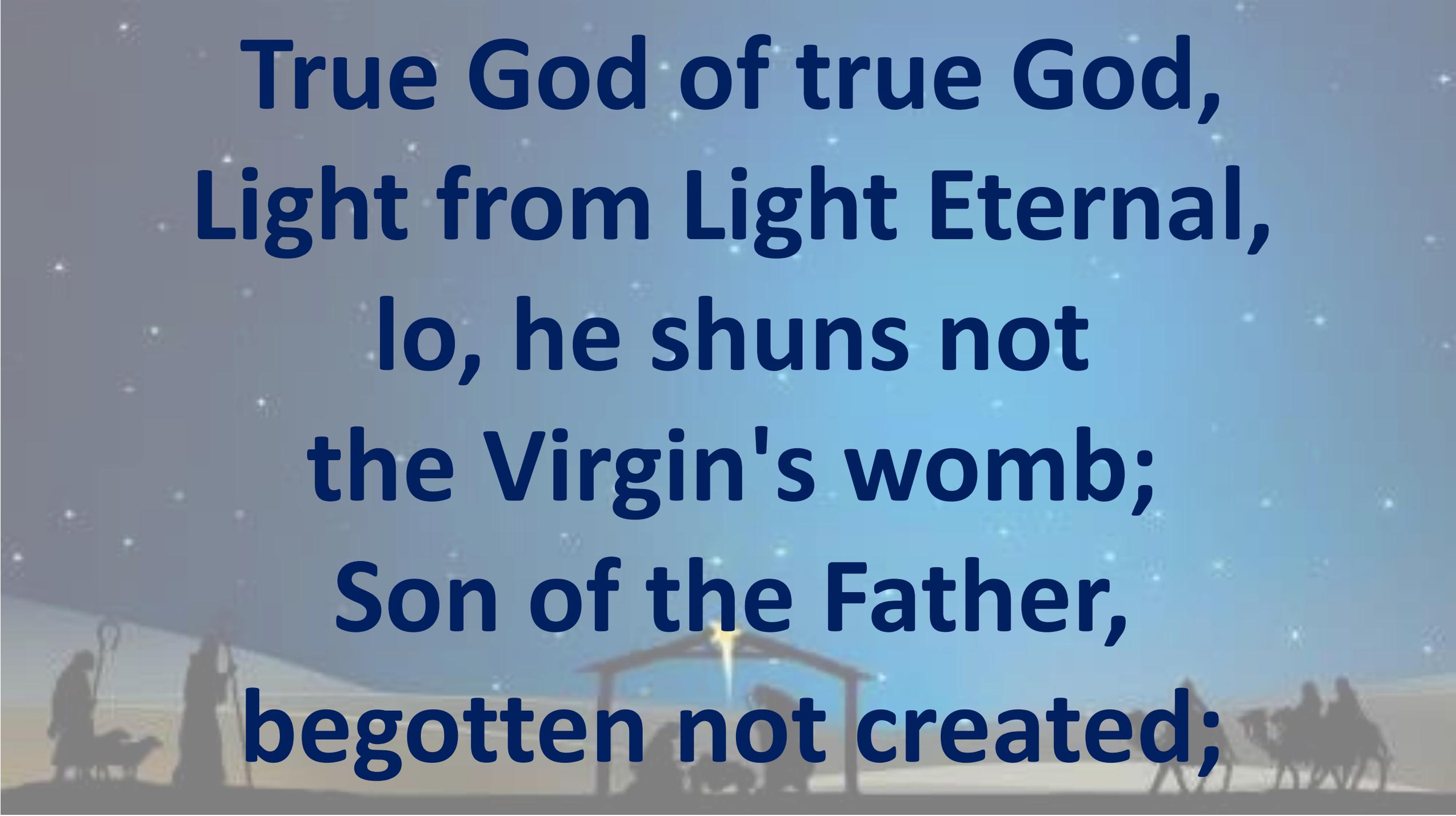
**O come all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye,  
to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him,  
born the King of angels;**



**O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

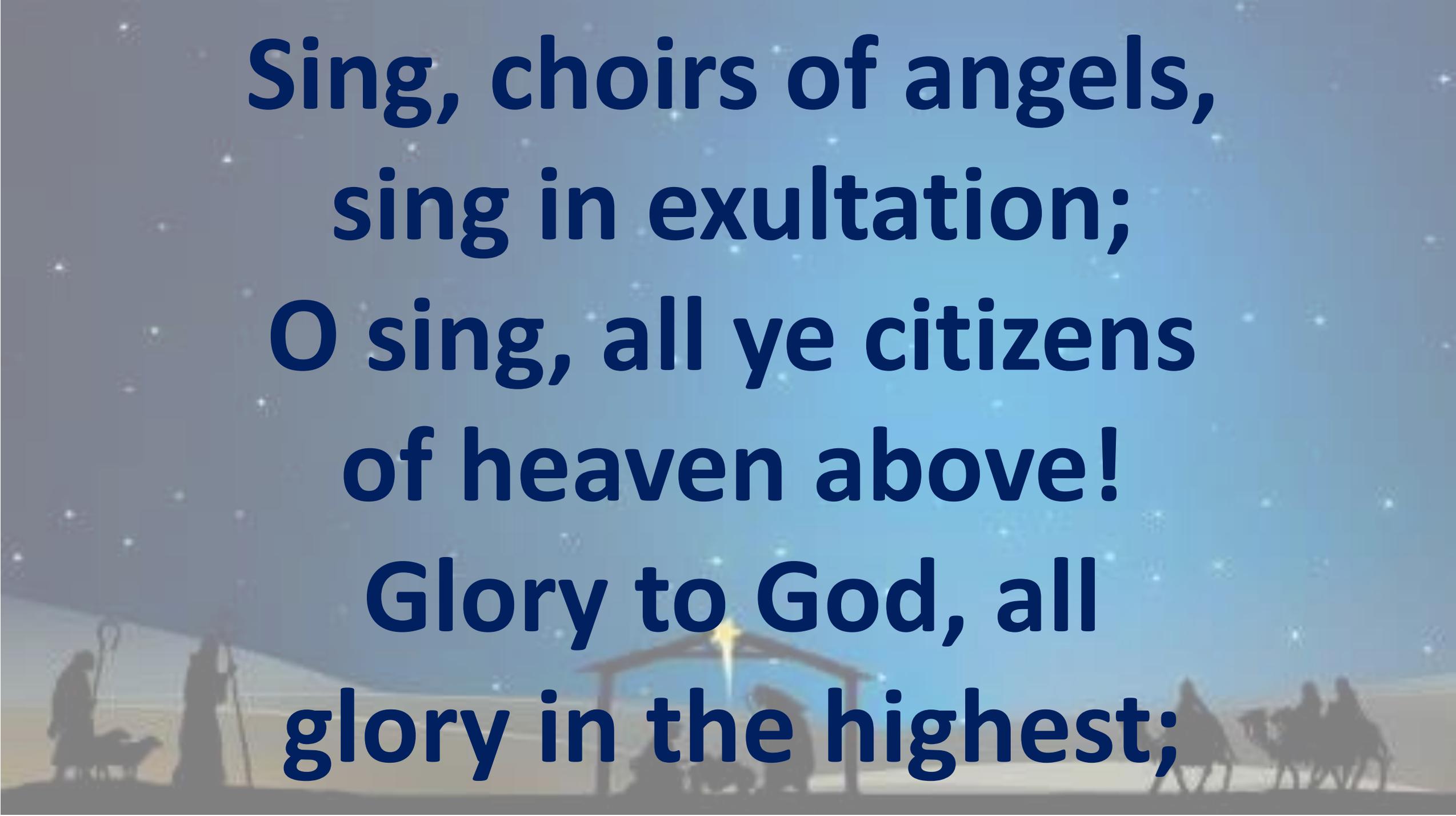


**True God of true God,  
Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not  
the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father,  
begotten not created;**



**O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

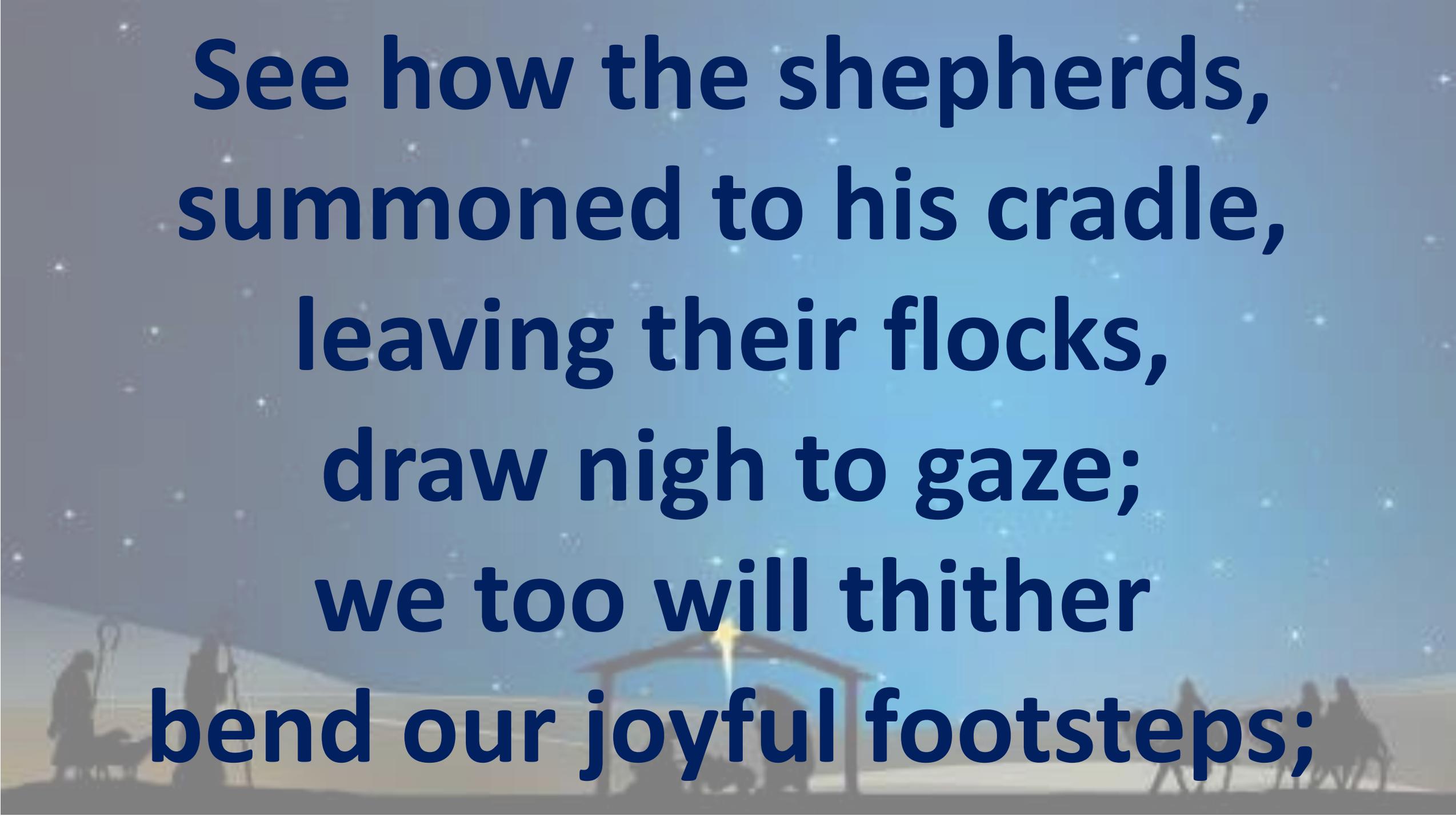


A background illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a manger is visible with a bright star above it. To the left, a shepherd stands with a staff, and a dog is nearby. To the right, a caravan of camels and riders is silhouetted against the sky. The entire scene is set against a blue sky with white stars.

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
glory in the highest;**

**O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**



The background of the image is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright white stars. In the lower portion of the image, there are silhouettes of shepherds with their flocks and a manger with a bright star above it, set against a lighter, hazy horizon. The text is overlaid on this scene in a large, bold, dark blue font.

**See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks,  
draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps;**

**O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**



SAVIOR  
OF THE WORLD

