



Gilcomston Church

A night sky with a bright star and a city silhouette. The sky is dark blue with some clouds. A bright star is visible on the right side, with a vertical beam of light extending downwards from it. The bottom of the image shows a silhouette of a city or town on a hillside.

Sunday 24 December

*... do not be afraid, I bring you good
news...*

Luke 2:10

A night sky with a bright starburst on the right side, casting a vertical beam of light down to a silhouette of a city on a horizon. The sky is dark with some clouds and a few other stars.

Morning Service

No longer living in fear
Luke 1:26-33, 2:8-15
Rev Jerry Middleton

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed,
where a mother laid her Baby
in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.**



**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**



**And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms He lay,
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as He.**

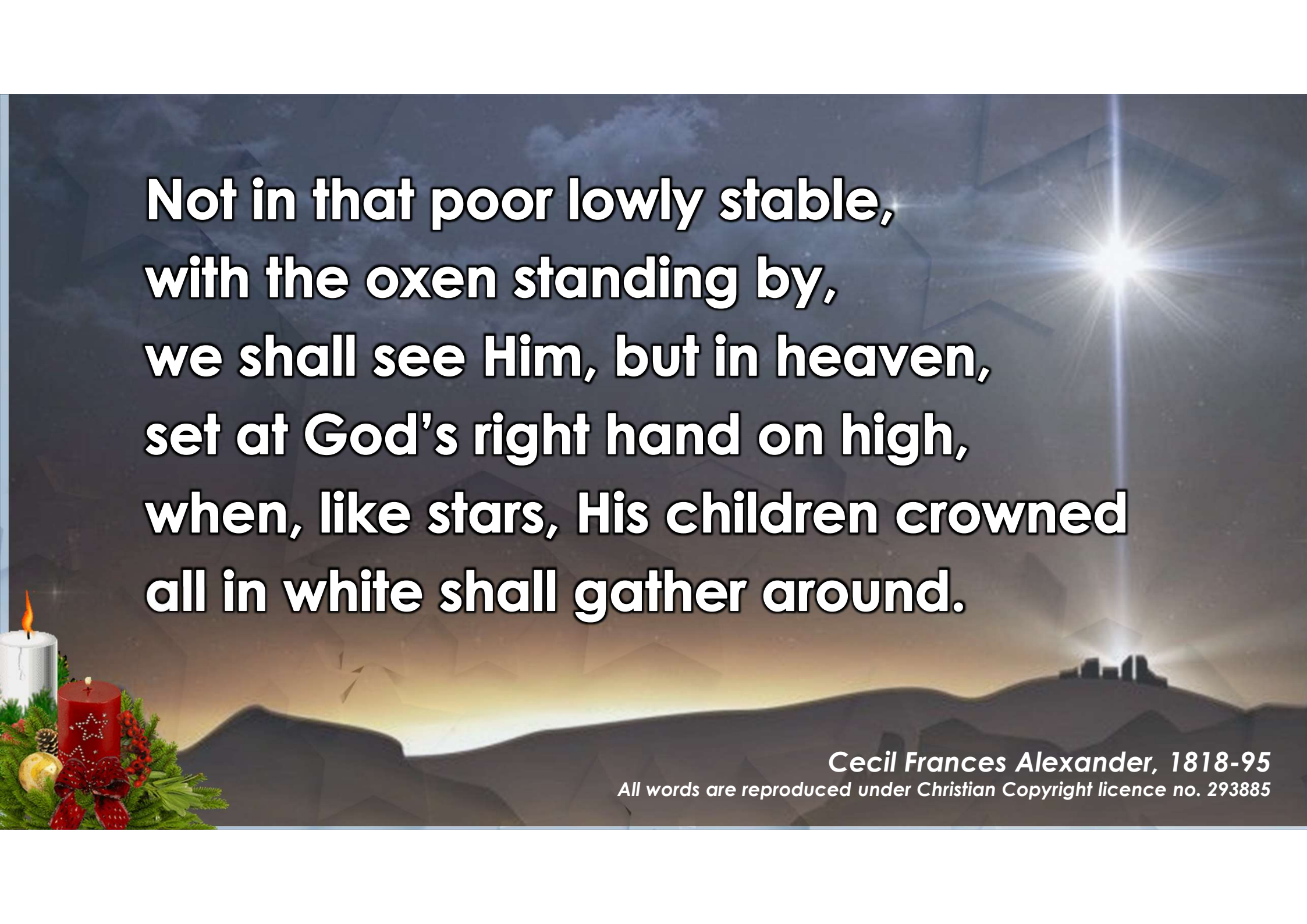


**For He is our childhood's pattern:
day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless;
tears and smiles like us He knew,
and He feeleth for our sadness,
and He shareth in our gladness.**



**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.**



A night sky with a bright star in the upper right, casting a beam of light down to a silhouette of a city on a hill. The sky is dark with some clouds and a faint starry pattern.

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, His children crowned
all in white shall gather around.**



Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95

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Prayer



Luke 1.26-33

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1.26-33

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Luke 1.26-33

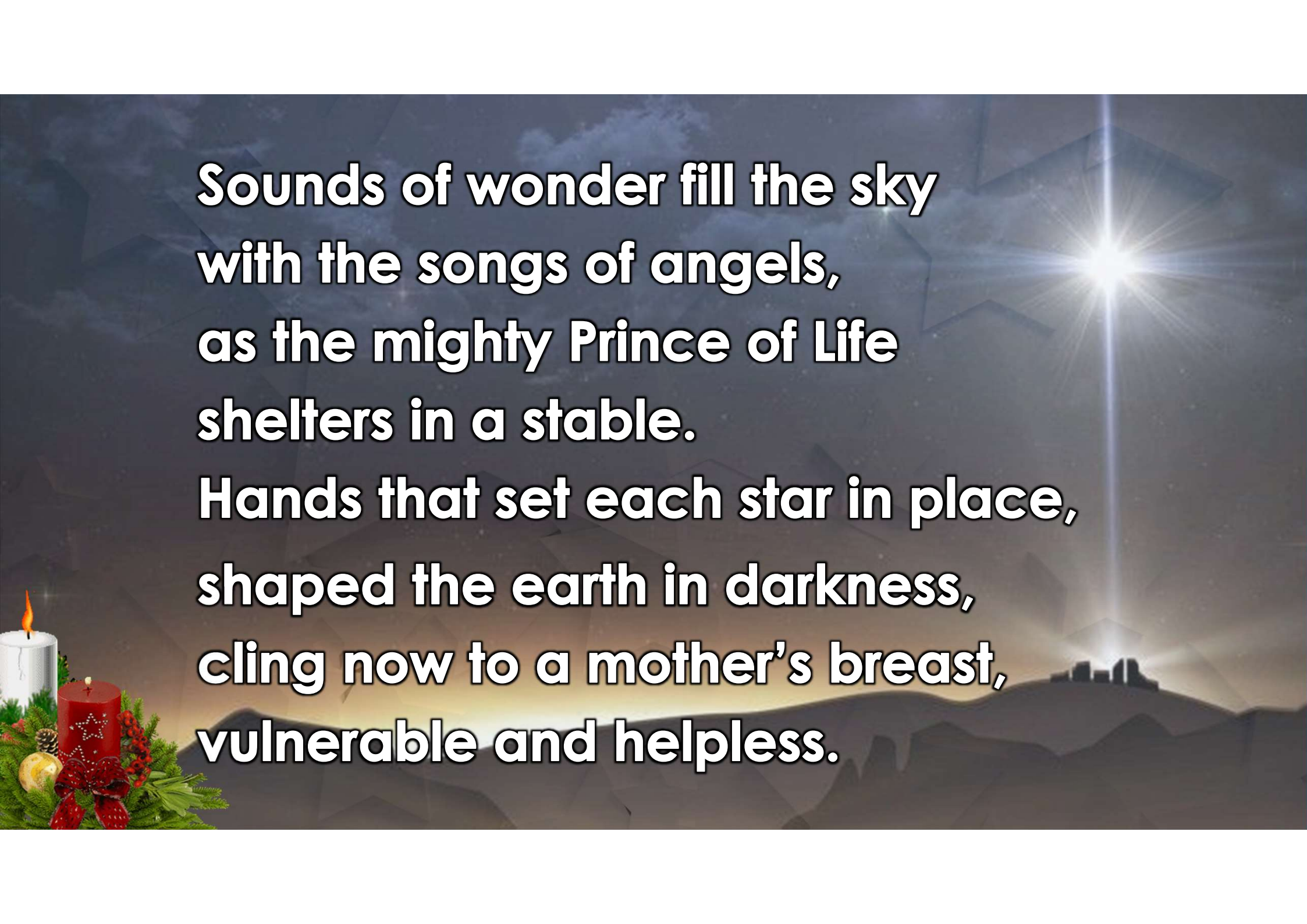
³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Children's Talk



**Joy has dawned upon the world,
promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.**



A night sky with a bright star and a city silhouette. The star is in the upper right, casting a beam of light down towards a city silhouette on the horizon. The sky is dark with some clouds and faint stars.

**Sounds of wonder fill the sky
with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life
shelters in a stable.**

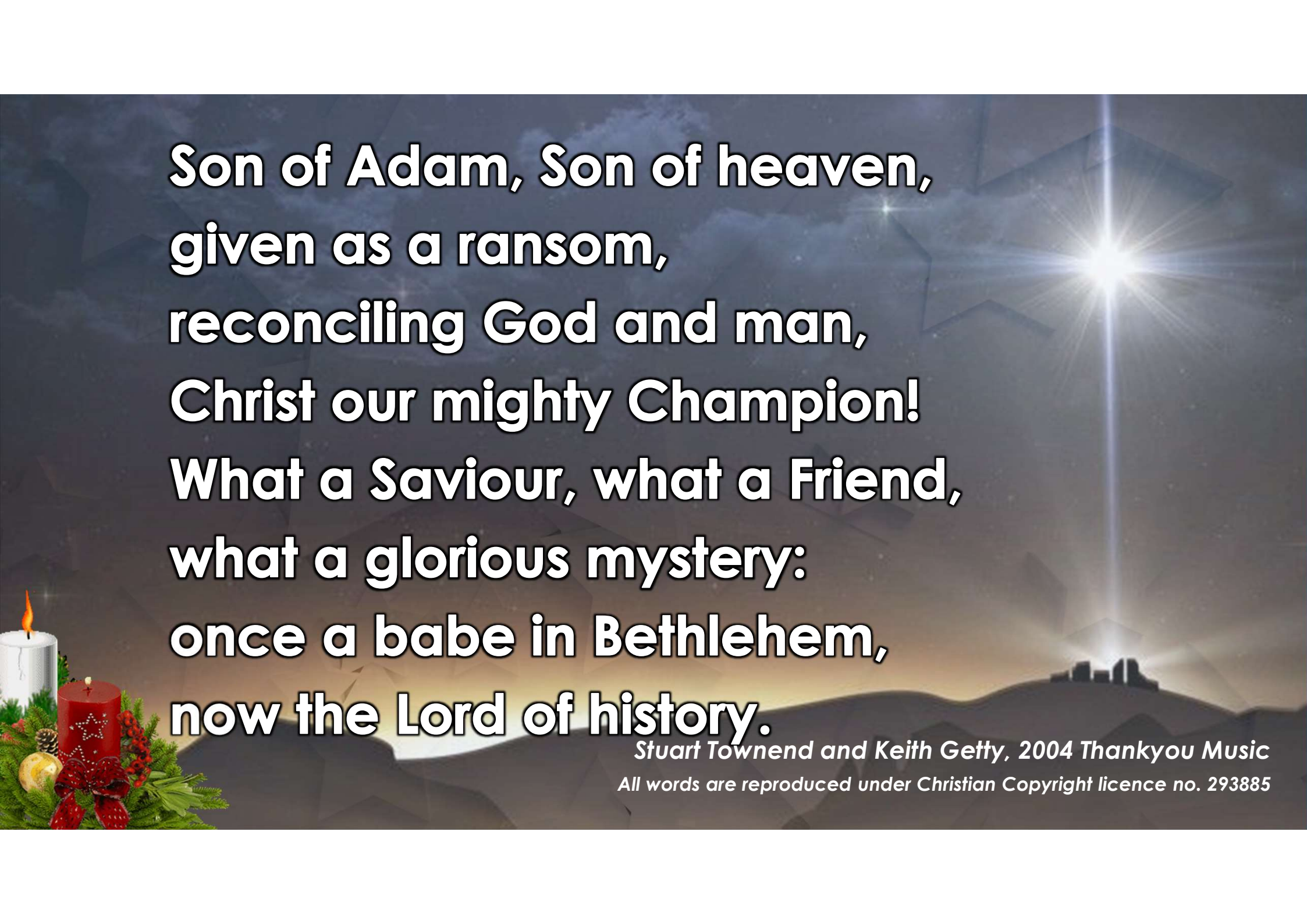
**Hands that set each star in place,
shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast,
vulnerable and helpless.**



**Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands
prophecy the story.**

**Gold, a King is born today,
incense, God is with us,
myrrh, His death will make a way,
and by His blood He'll win us.**

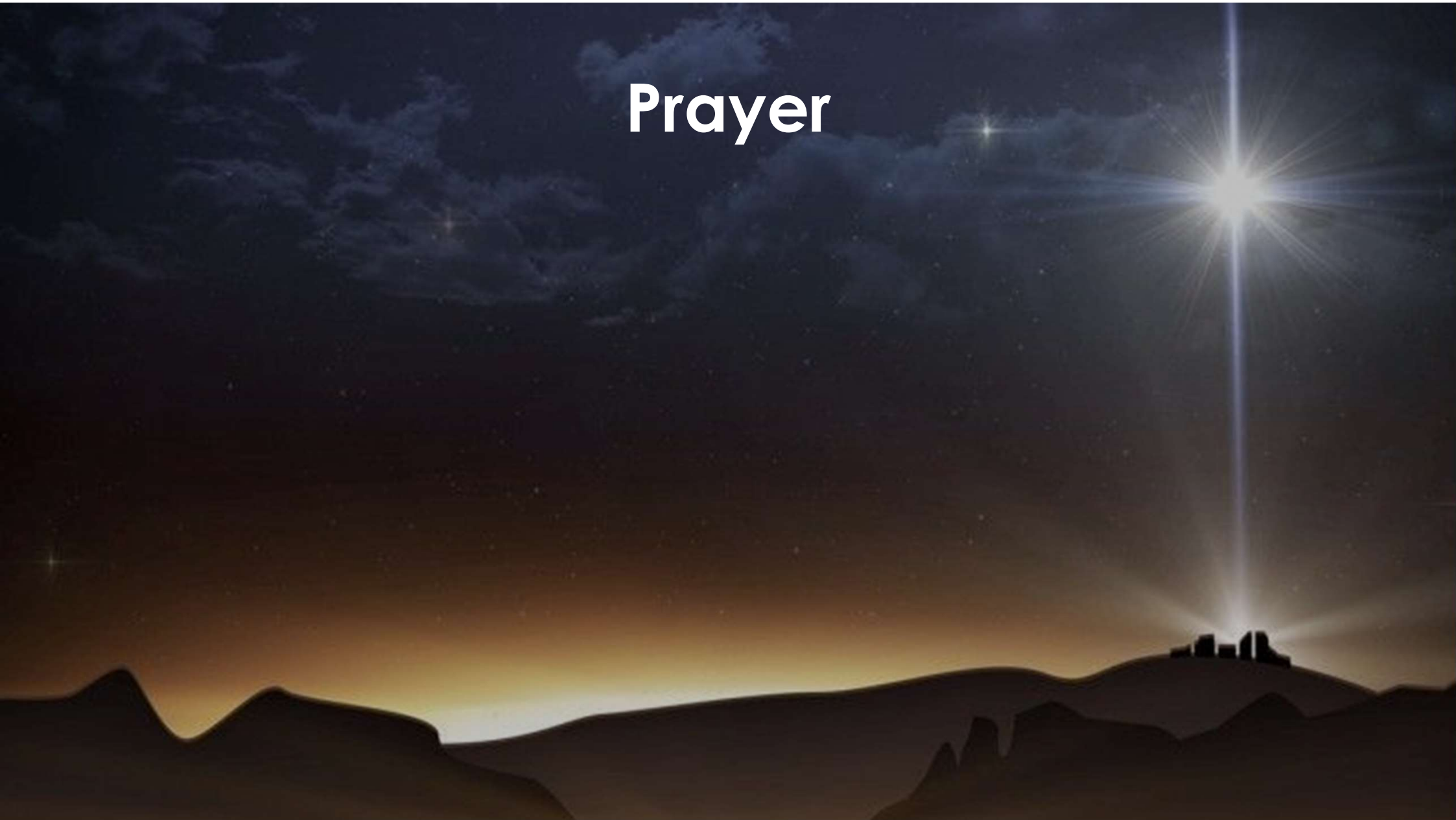


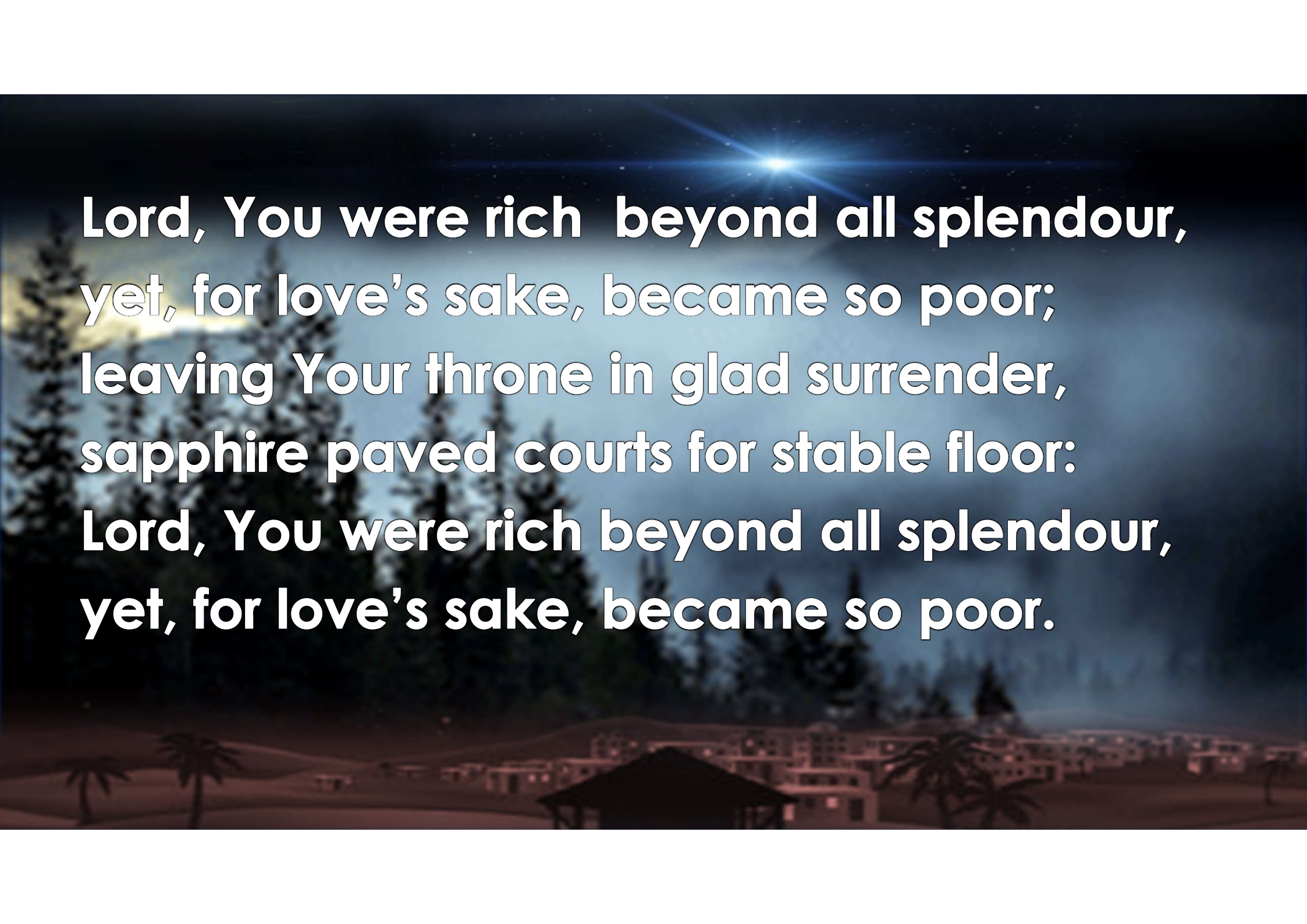


**Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
given as a ransom,
reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
what a glorious mystery:
once a babe in Bethlehem,
now the Lord of history.**

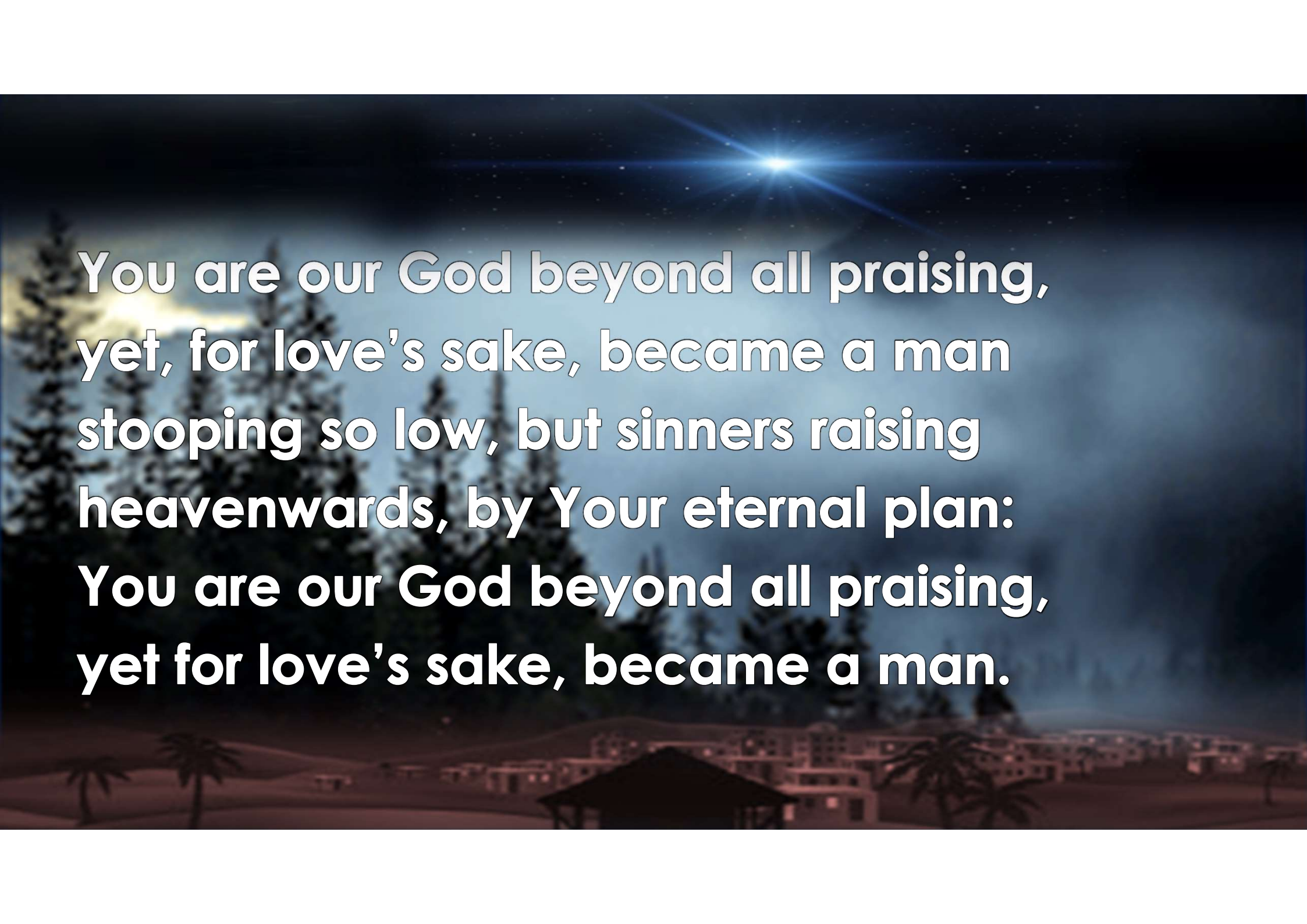
*Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, 2004 Thankyou Music
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Prayer

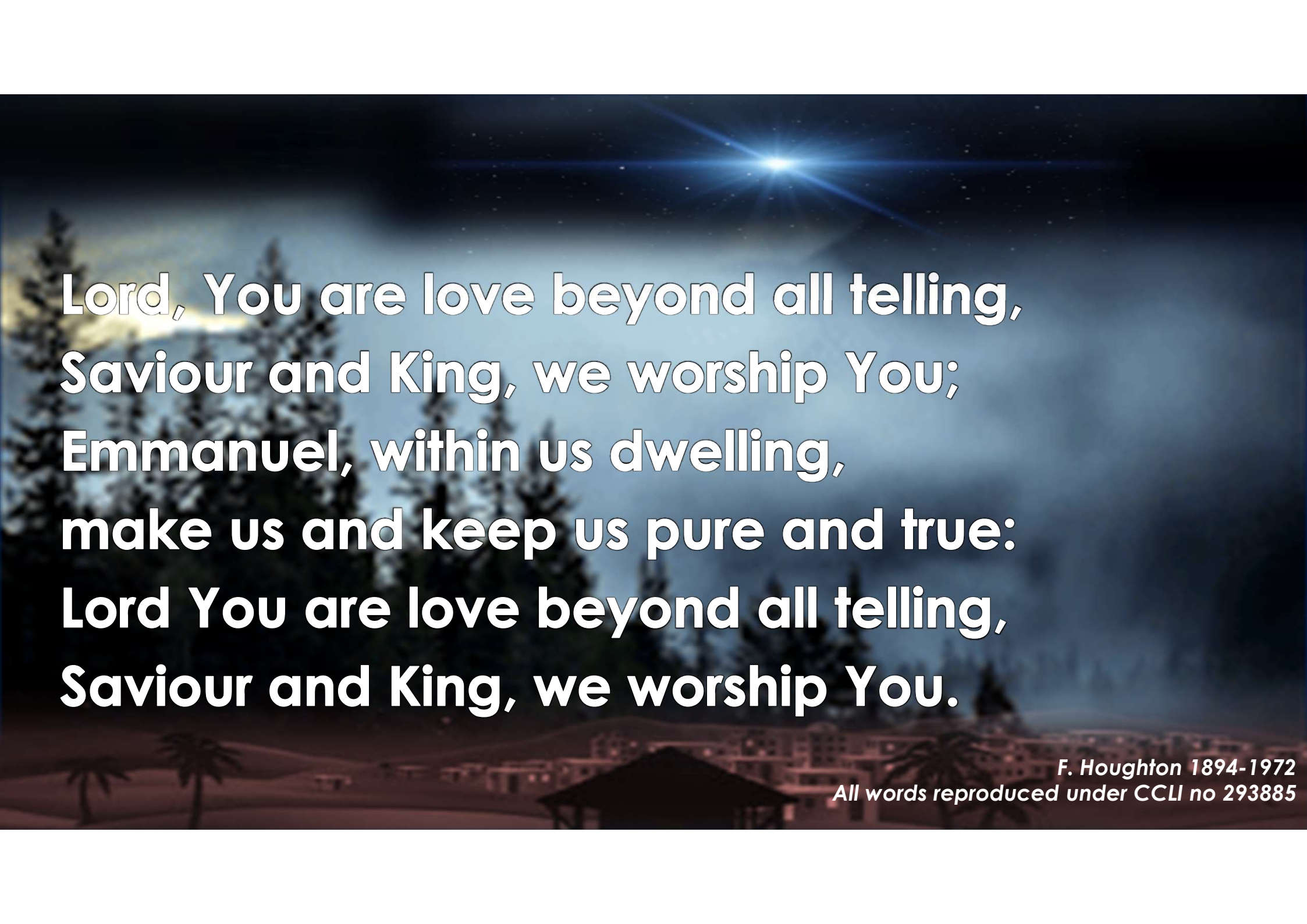




**Lord, You were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;
leaving Your throne in glad surrender,
sapphire paved courts for stable floor:
Lord, You were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.**



**You are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards, by Your eternal plan:
You are our God beyond all praising,
yet for love's sake, became a man.**

A night scene with a bright star in the sky and silhouettes of trees and a building.

**Lord, You are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship You;
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us and keep us pure and true:
Lord You are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship You.**

*F. Houghton 1894-1972
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Luke 2.8-15

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Luke 2.8-15

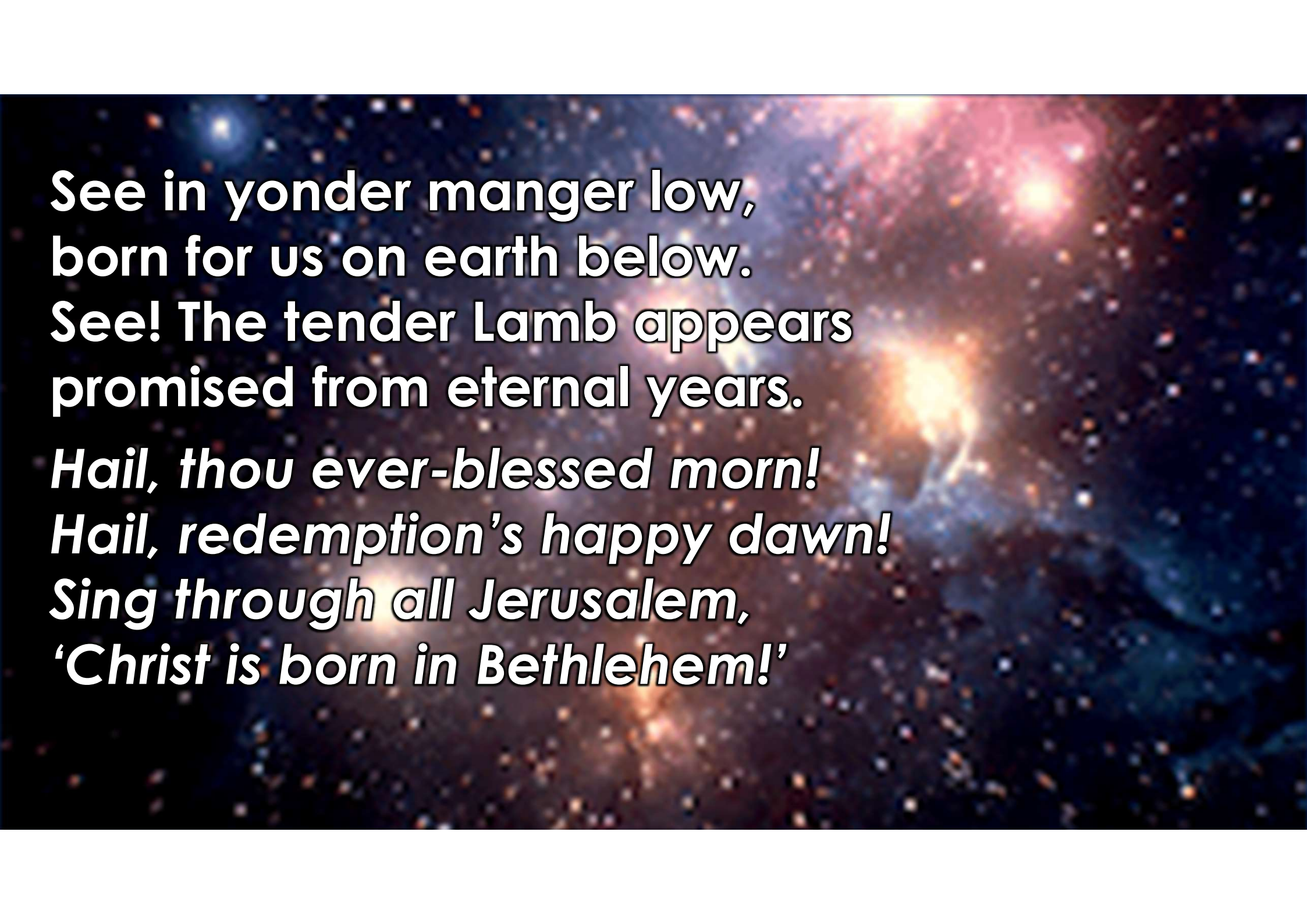
¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2.8-15

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

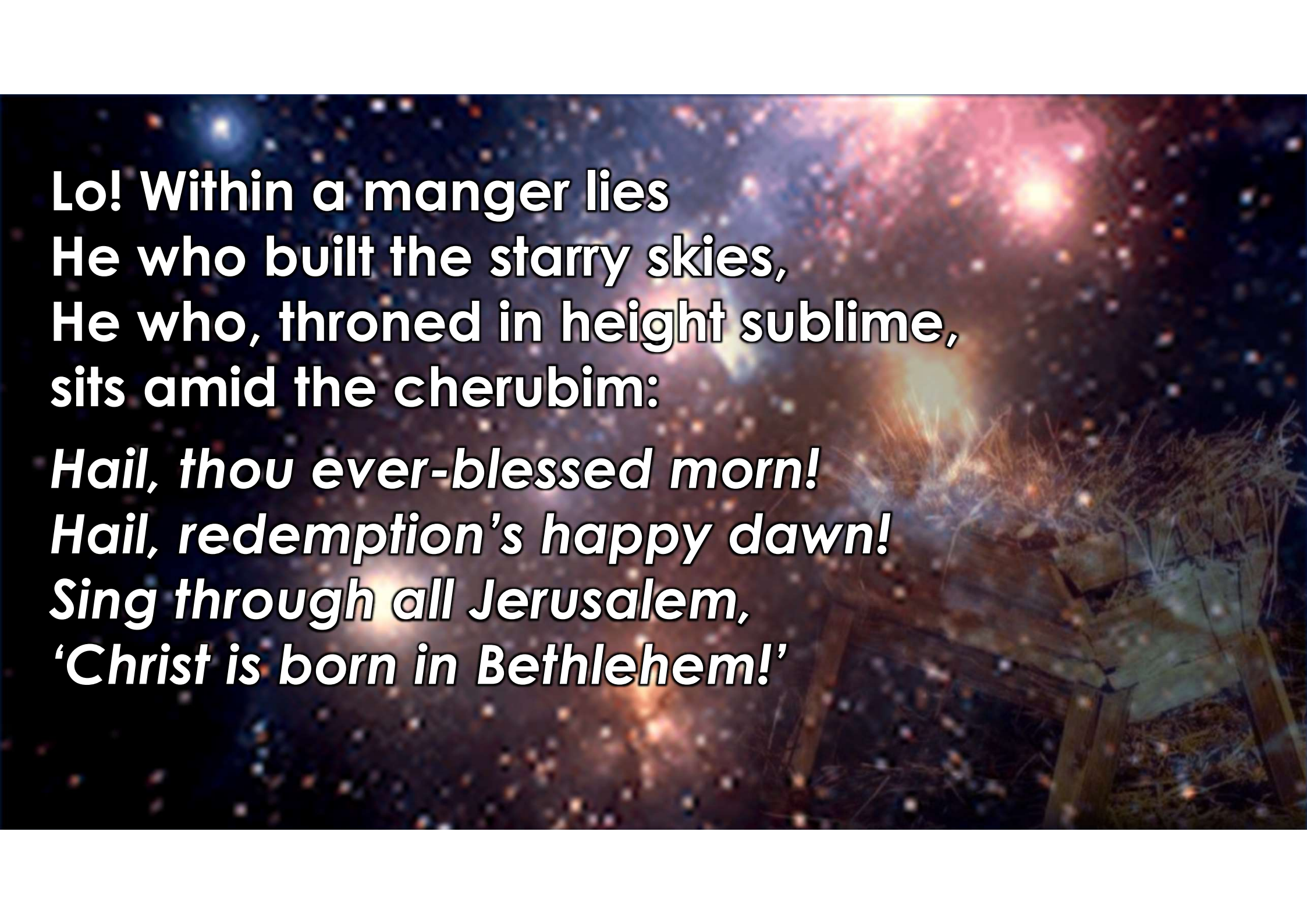
Luke 2.8-15

¹⁵ 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.”



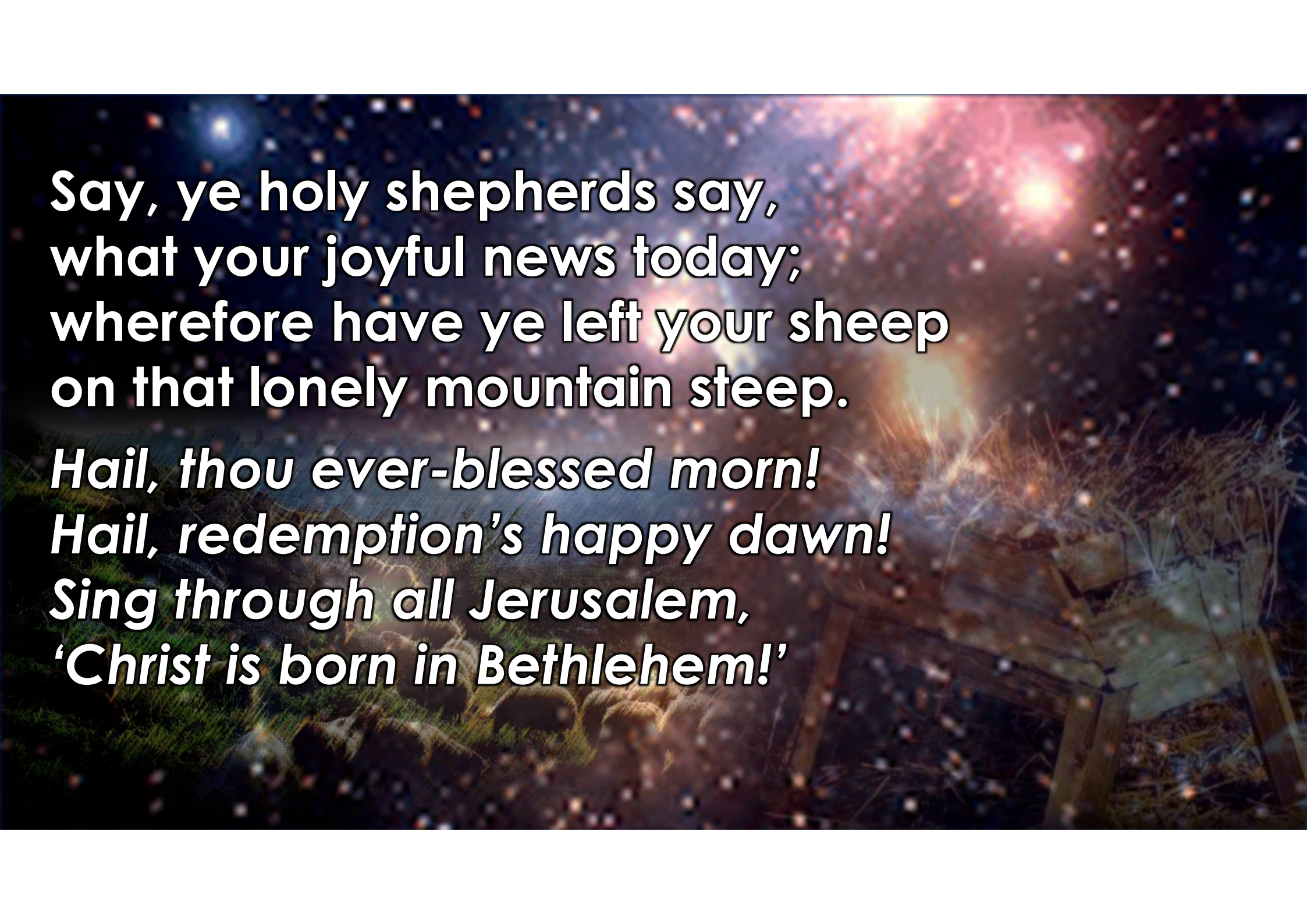
**See in yonder manger low,
born for us on earth below.
See! The tender Lamb appears
promised from eternal years.**

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'***



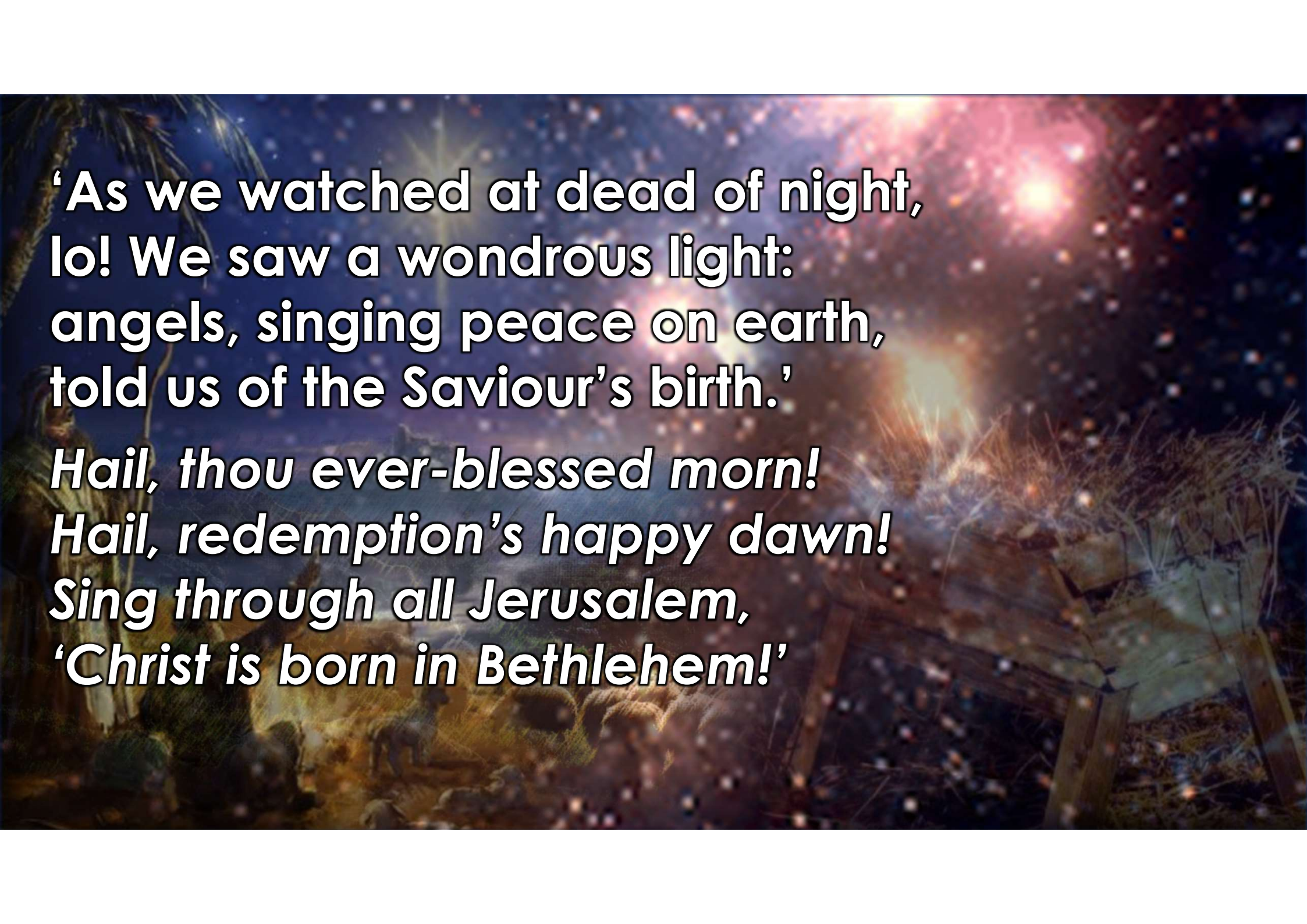
**Lo! Within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim:**

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'***

A night scene with a starry sky and a wooden manger with hay. The sky is dark with many small stars and a bright, glowing nebula in the upper right. In the foreground, there is a wooden manger filled with hay, illuminated by a warm light. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and celestial.

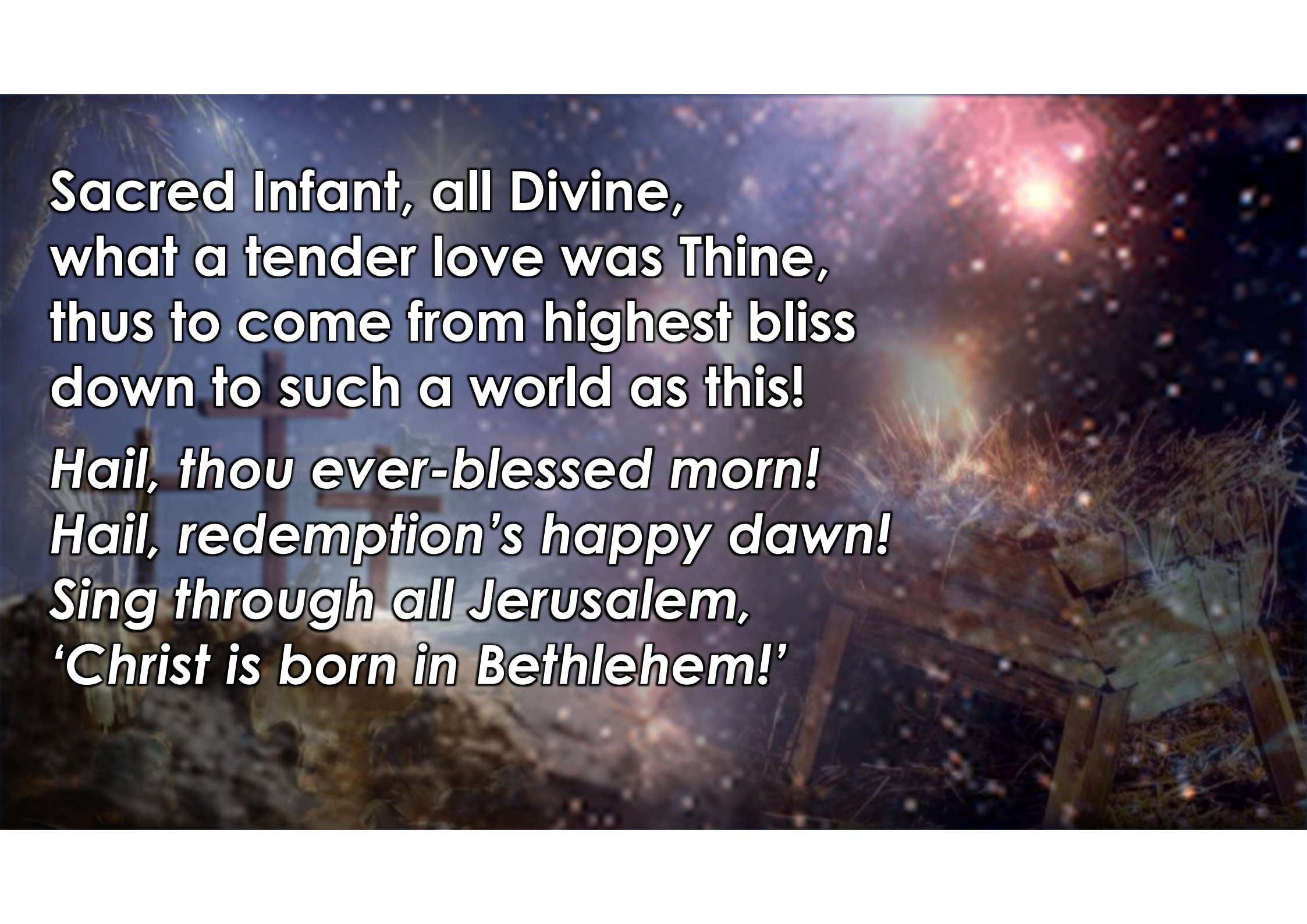
**Say, ye holy shepherds say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on that lonely mountain steep.**

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'***

A night scene in Bethlehem, featuring a manger in the foreground and a bright, glowing star in the dark sky. The scene is illuminated by the star's light, creating a magical atmosphere. The manger is made of wood and straw, and the sky is filled with stars and a soft glow.

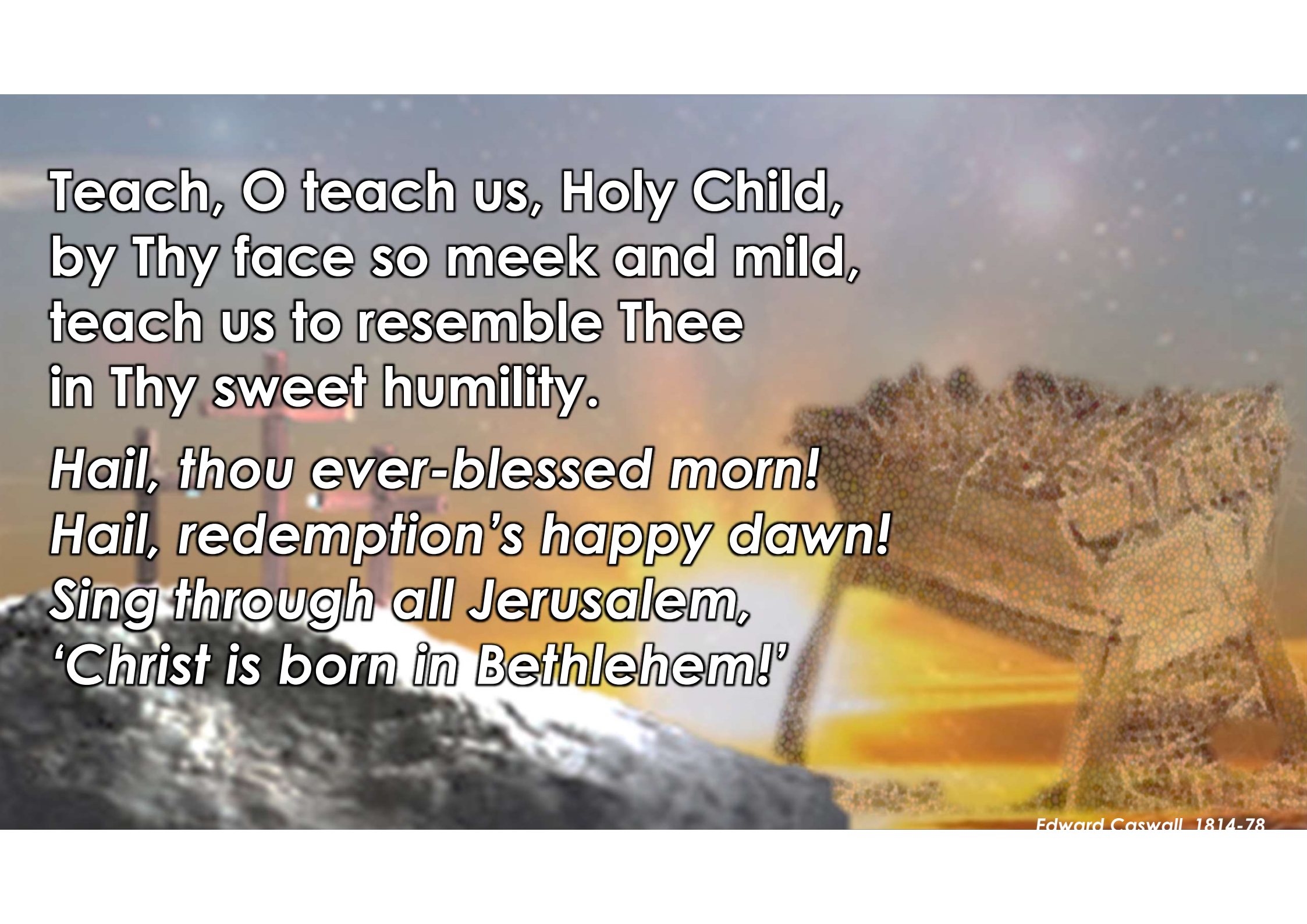
**‘As we watched at dead of night,
lo! We saw a wondrous light:
angels, singing peace on earth,
told us of the Saviour’s birth.’**

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’***

A night scene of a manger, likely in Bethlehem, with a bright star in the sky. The manger is made of wood and straw, and the sky is dark with many stars and a prominent bright star in the upper right. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.


**Sacred Infant, all Divine,
what a tender love was Thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!**

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'***



Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
by Thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble Thee
in Thy sweet humility.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a silhouette of a city on a hill. The sky is dark blue with some clouds and a few stars. A bright star in the upper right corner has a vertical beam of light shining down towards a silhouette of a city on a hill. The city is on a hill, and the light from the star illuminates the city and the surrounding area. The foreground shows the silhouette of a mountain range.

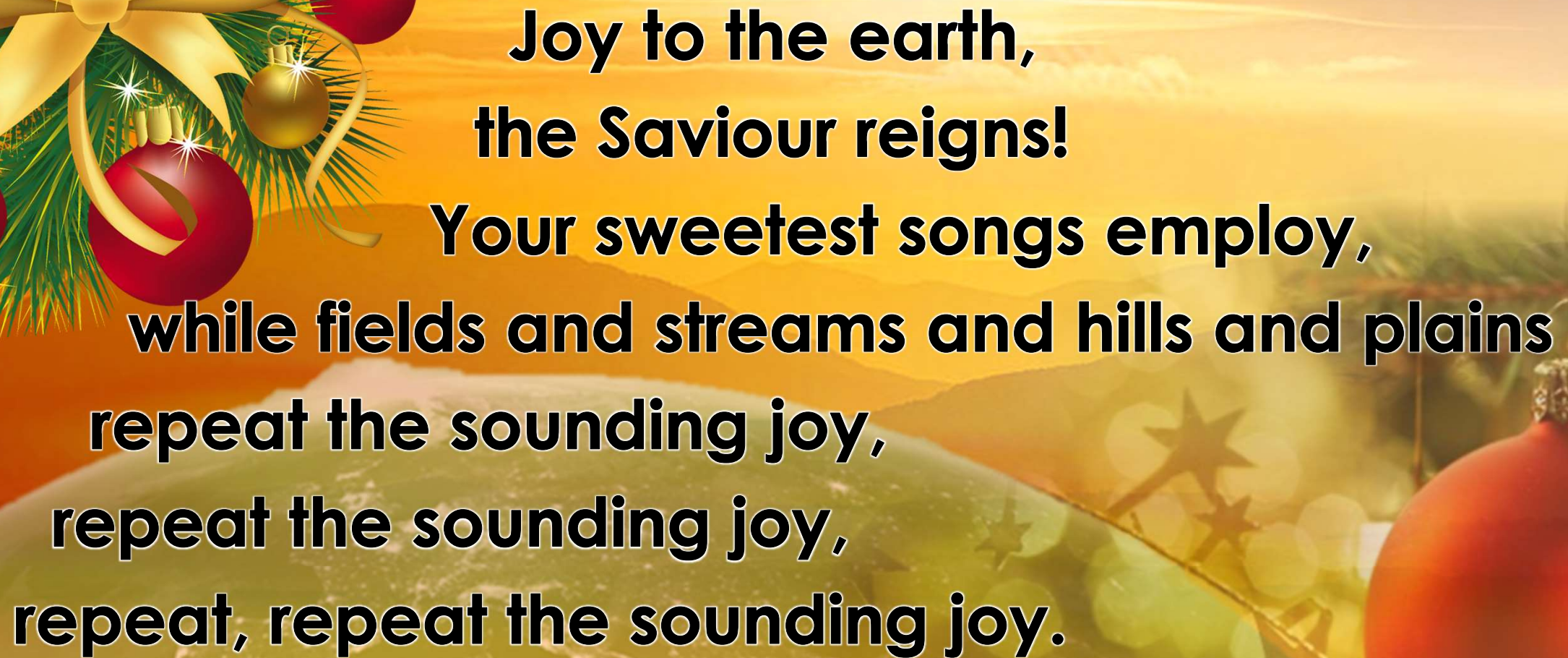
No longer living in fear
Luke 1:26-33, 2:8-15

Prayer

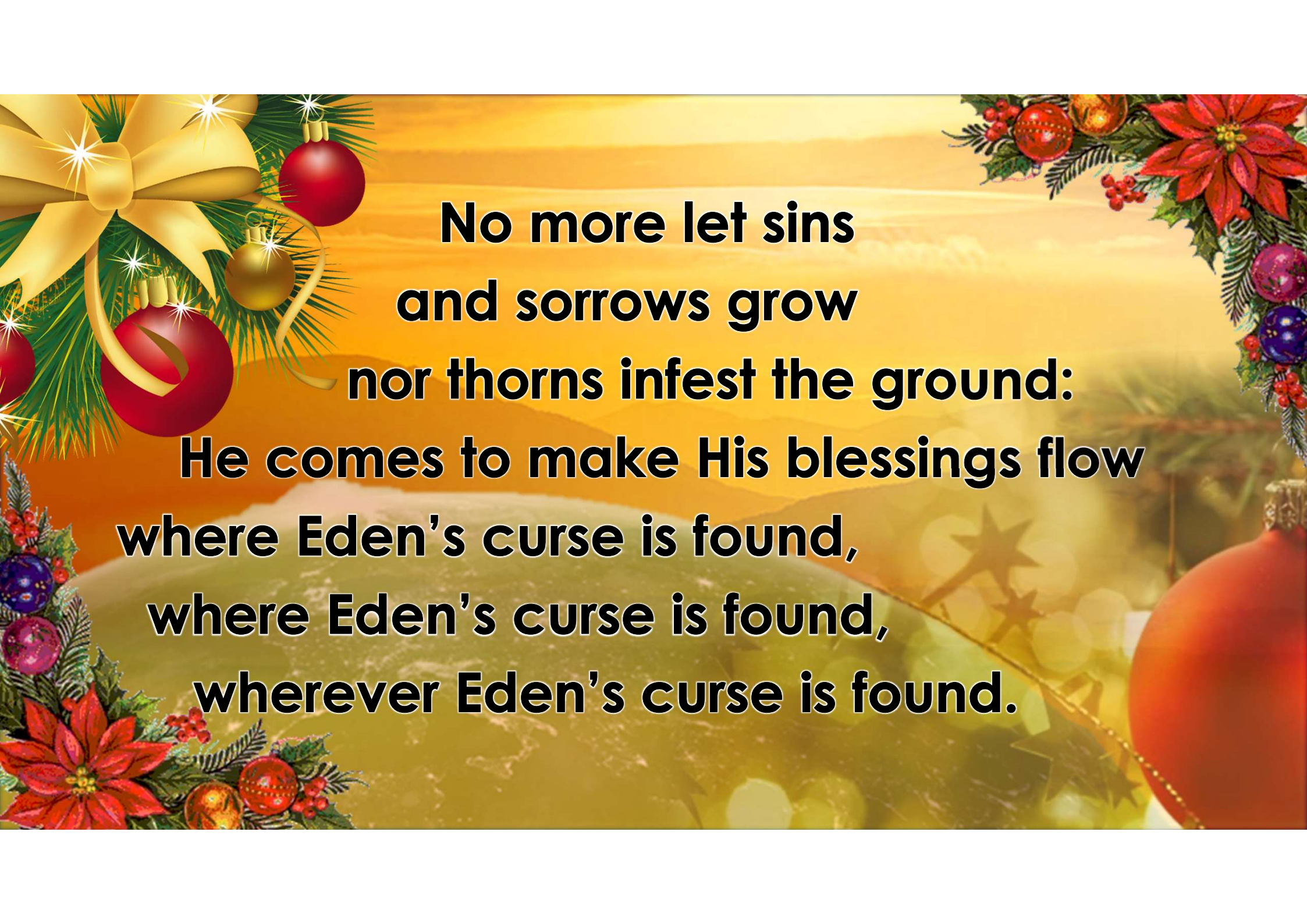




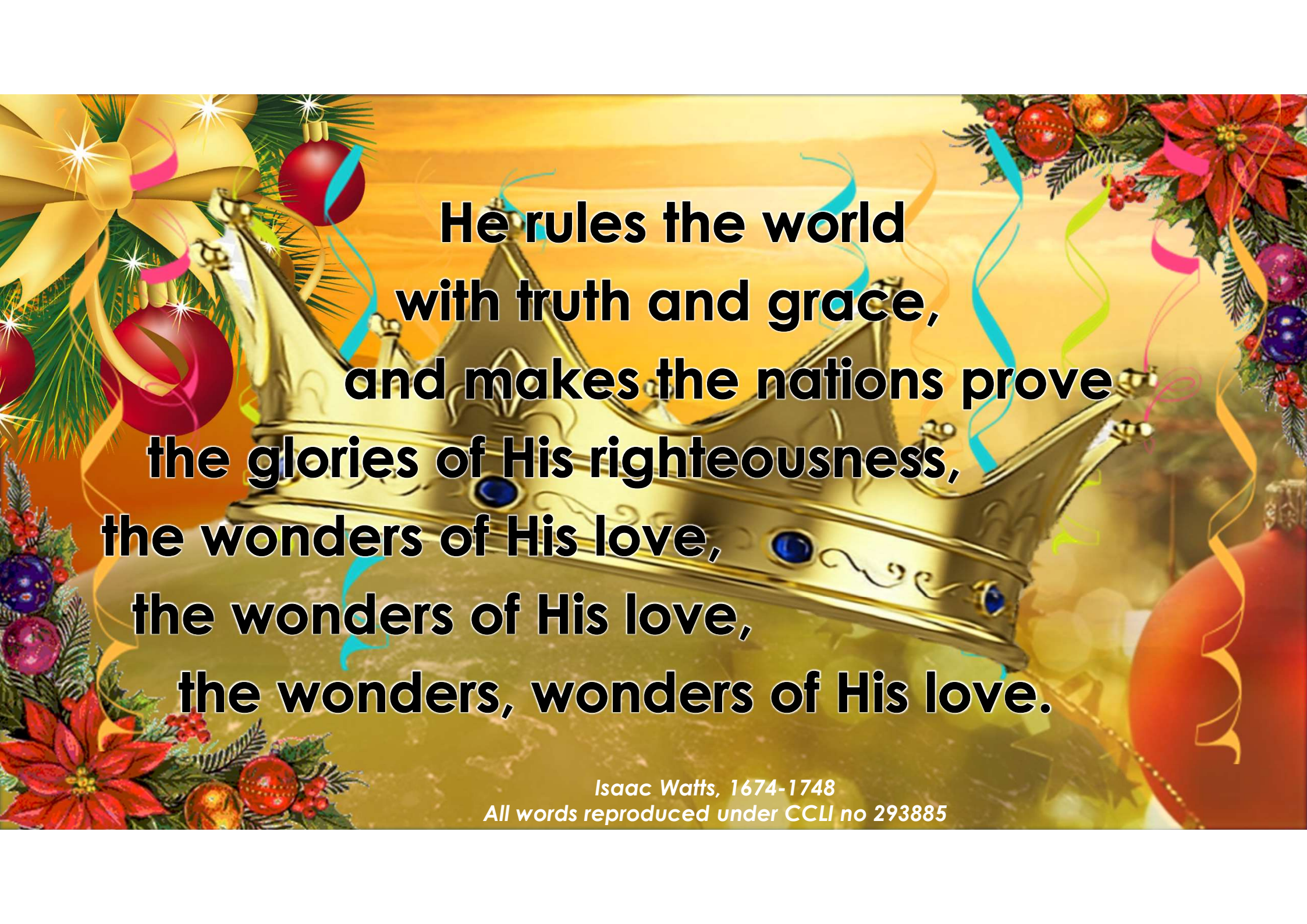
**Joy to the world,
the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**



**Joy to the earth,
the Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ,
while fields and streams and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**



**No more let sins
and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow
where Eden's curse is found,
where Eden's curse is found,
wherever Eden's curse is found.**



**He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
the wonders of His love,
the wonders of His love,
the wonders, wonders of His love.**

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**

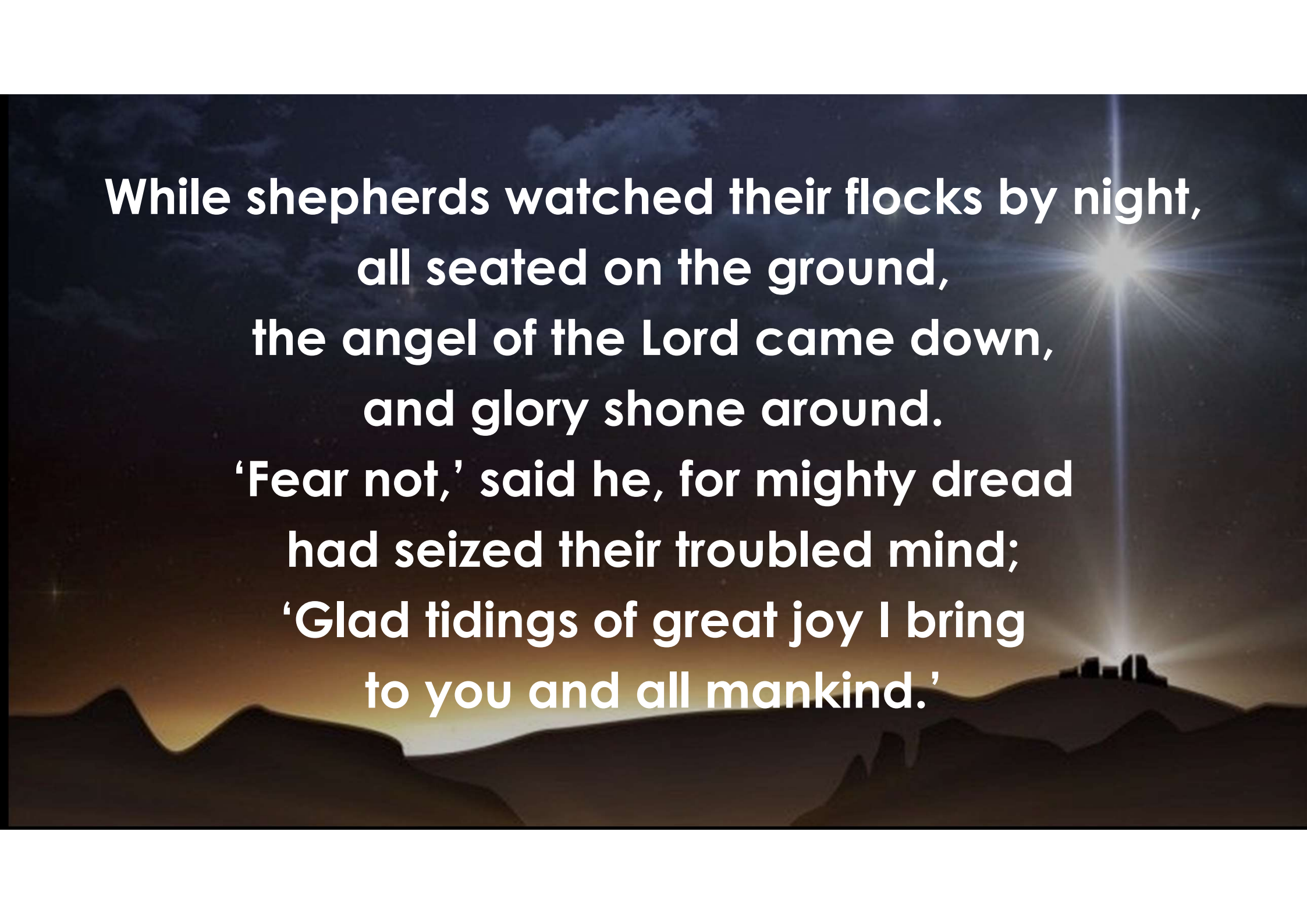
A night sky with a bright star and a silhouette of a city on a hill. The sky is dark with some clouds and a few stars. A bright star is visible on the right side, with a vertical beam of light extending downwards from it. The bottom of the image shows a silhouette of a city on a hill, with a few buildings visible. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

Watchnight Service

Light in the night

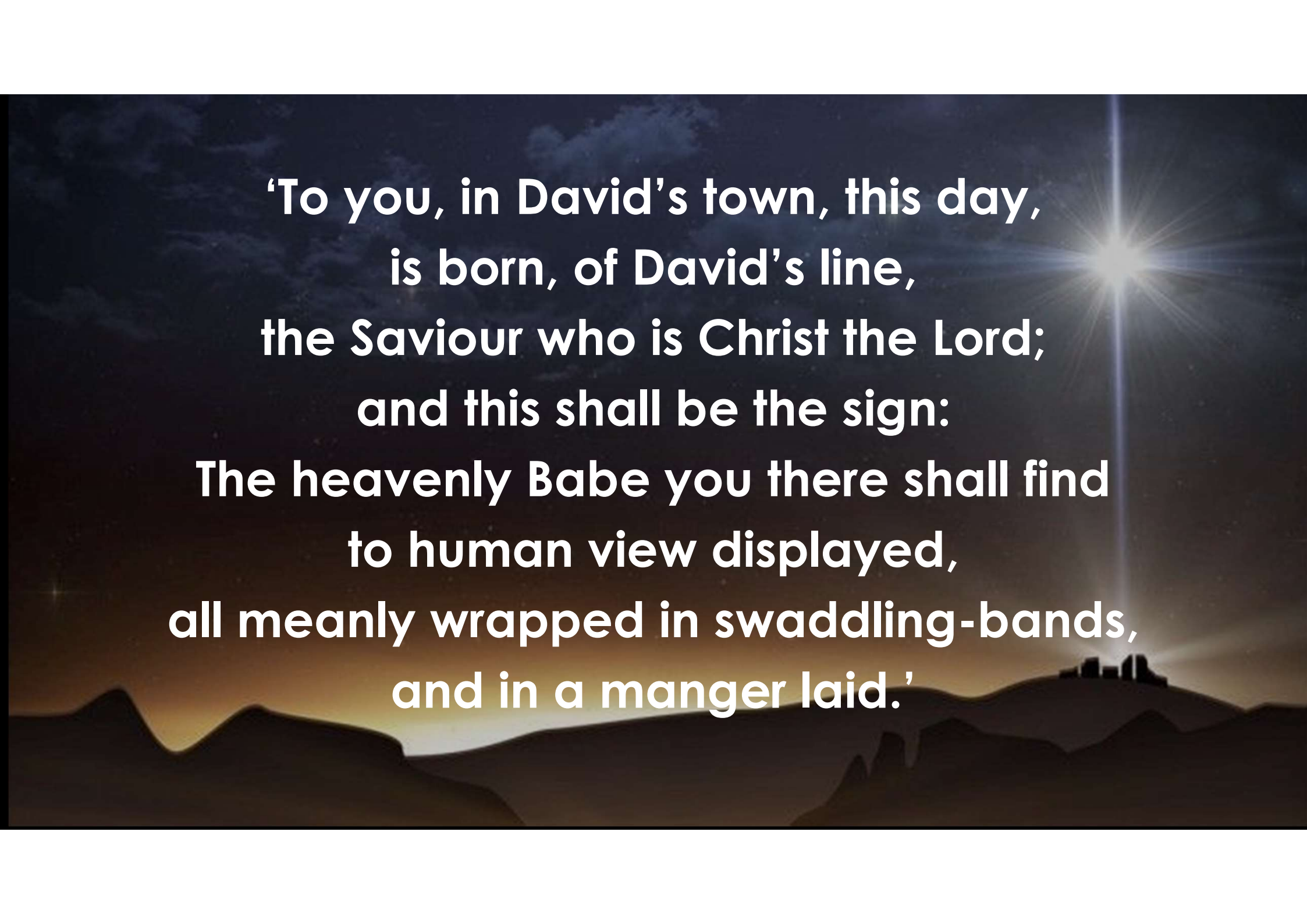
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; John 1:1-14; Luke 2:8-15

Rev Jerry Middleton


The background of the image is a dark night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner. A vertical beam of light descends from the star towards a silhouette of a building on a hill in the distance. The foreground shows dark, silhouetted hills.

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**‘Fear not,’ said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.’**

A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of a manger or stable structure on a hillside.

**'To you, in David's town, this day,
is born, of David's line,
the Saviour who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-bands,
and in a manger laid.'**

The background of the image is a dark night sky with a bright, multi-pointed starburst on the right side. Below the sky, there is a silhouette of a city or town built on a hill, with a prominent tower or spire. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, and thus
addressed their joyful song:
'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill is shown by heaven to men,
and never more shall cease.'**

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715

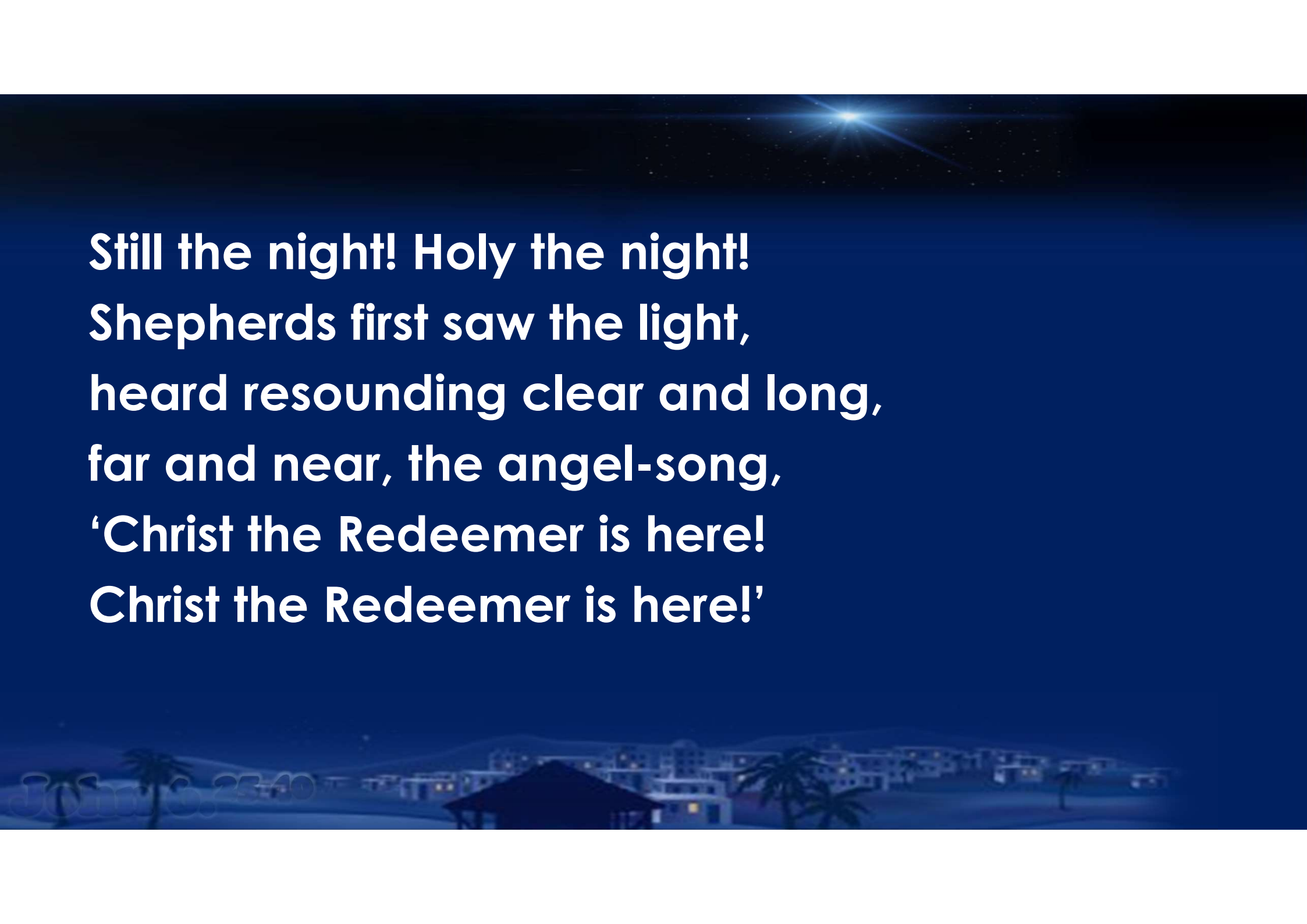
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Prayer

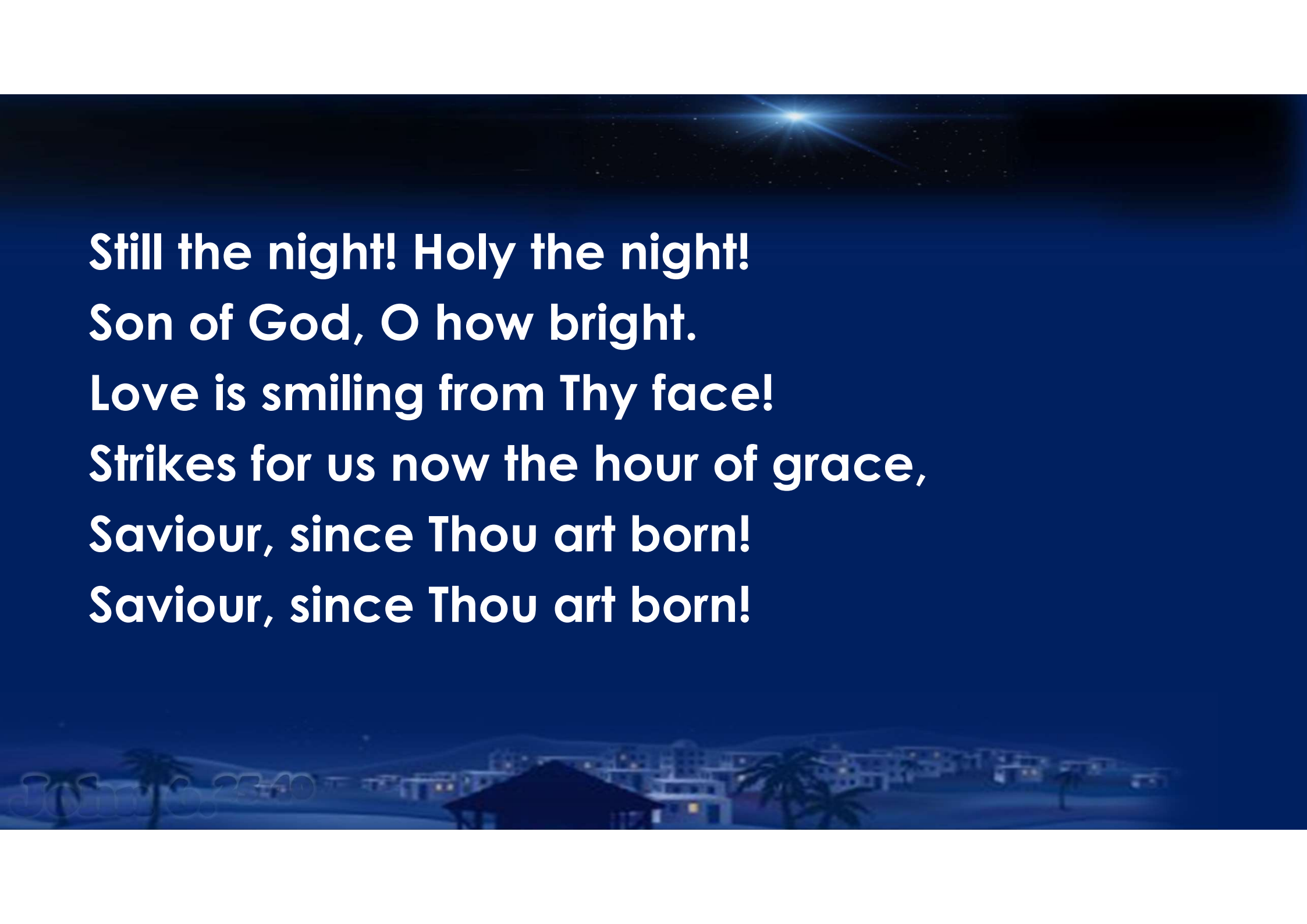


**Still the night! Holy the night!
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
watch o'er the child beloved and fair,
sleeping in heavenly rest;
sleeping in heavenly rest.**

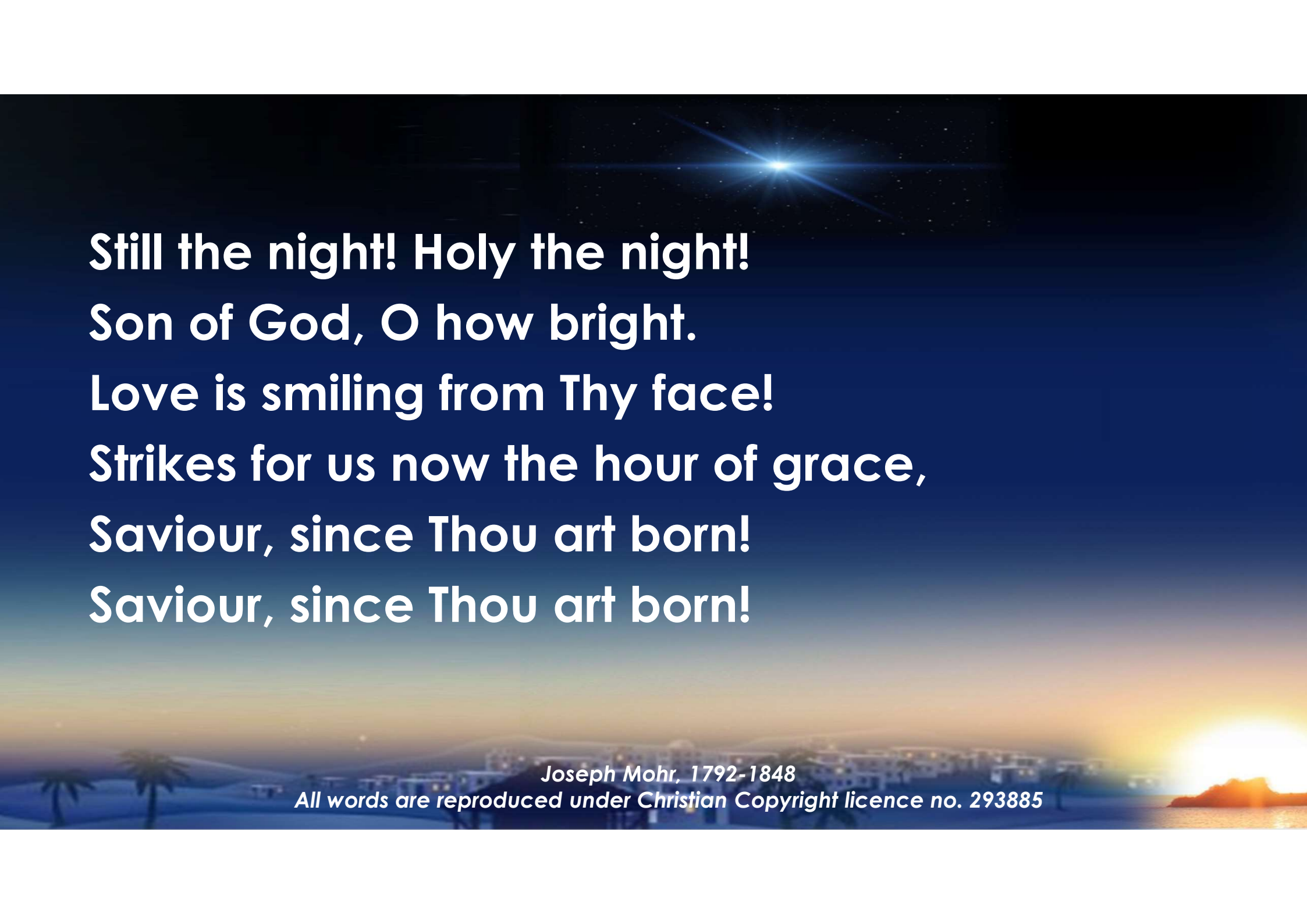


The background of the slide is a dark blue night sky. In the upper right quadrant, there is a bright, multi-pointed star or light source. At the bottom of the slide, there is a faint, blue-tinted image of a cityscape or town at night, with some buildings and palm trees visible. The text is centered in the upper half of the slide.

**Still the night! Holy the night!
Shepherds first saw the light,
heard resounding clear and long,
far and near, the angel-song,
'Christ the Redeemer is here!
Christ the Redeemer is here!'**

The background of the slide is a dark blue night sky. In the upper right quadrant, there is a bright, multi-pointed star or light source. At the bottom of the slide, there is a faint, blue-tinted image of a cityscape at night, featuring palm trees and buildings with lights. The text is centered in the upper half of the slide.

**Still the night! Holy the night!
Son of God, O how bright.
Love is smiling from Thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since Thou art born!
Saviour, since Thou art born!**

The background features a dark night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. Below the sky, a cityscape is visible at dusk or dawn, with lights glowing from the buildings. The sun is setting on the right side, creating a warm orange and yellow glow over the horizon. The overall scene is a blend of celestial and terrestrial elements.

**Still the night! Holy the night!
Son of God, O how bright.
Love is smiling from Thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since Thou art born!
Saviour, since Thou art born!**

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

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Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7

The people walking in
darkness

have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of
deep darkness

a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be
on his shoulders.

Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his
government and peace
there will be no end.

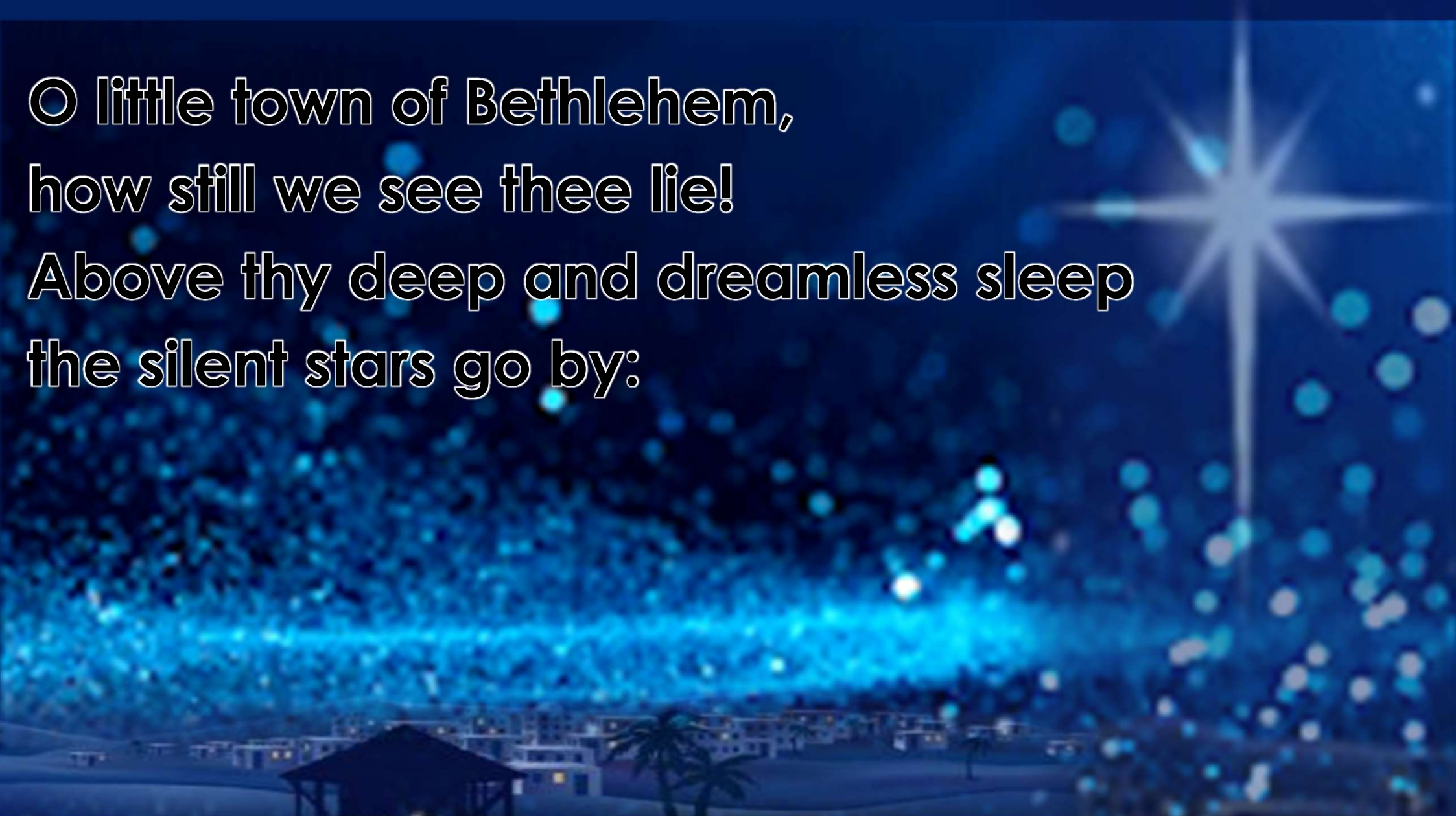
Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and
righteousness
from that time on and
forever.

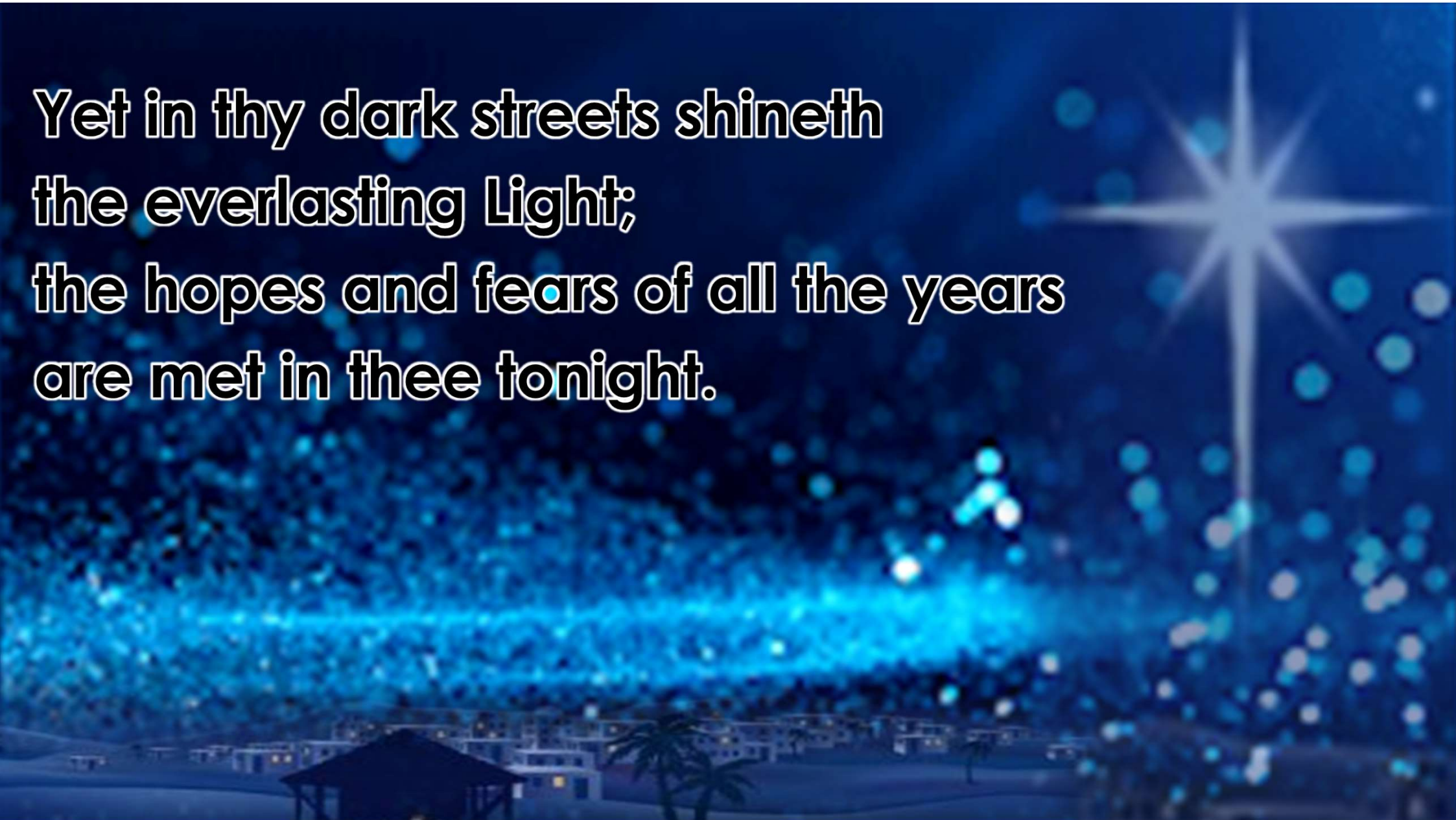
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

© little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!

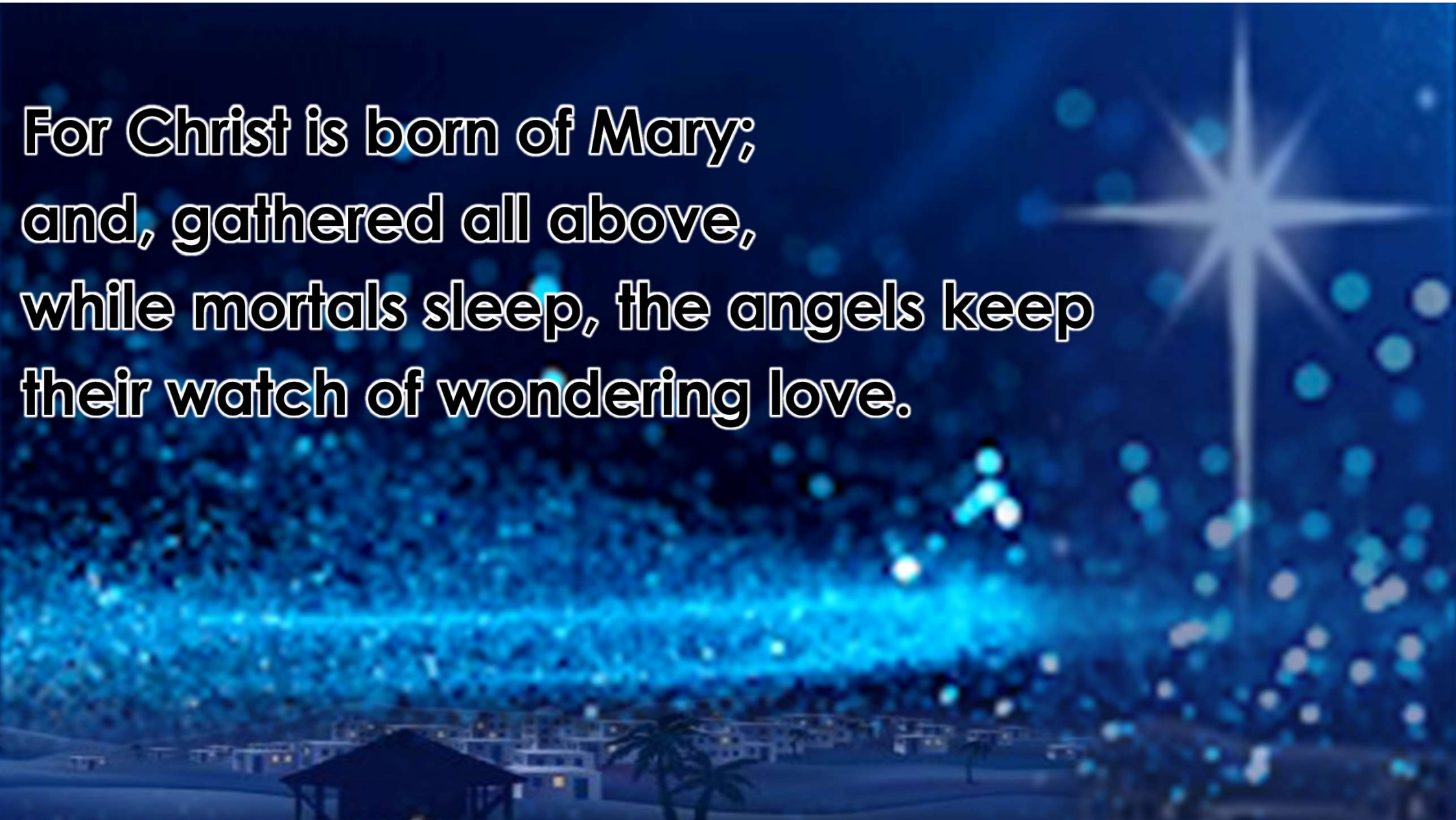
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:



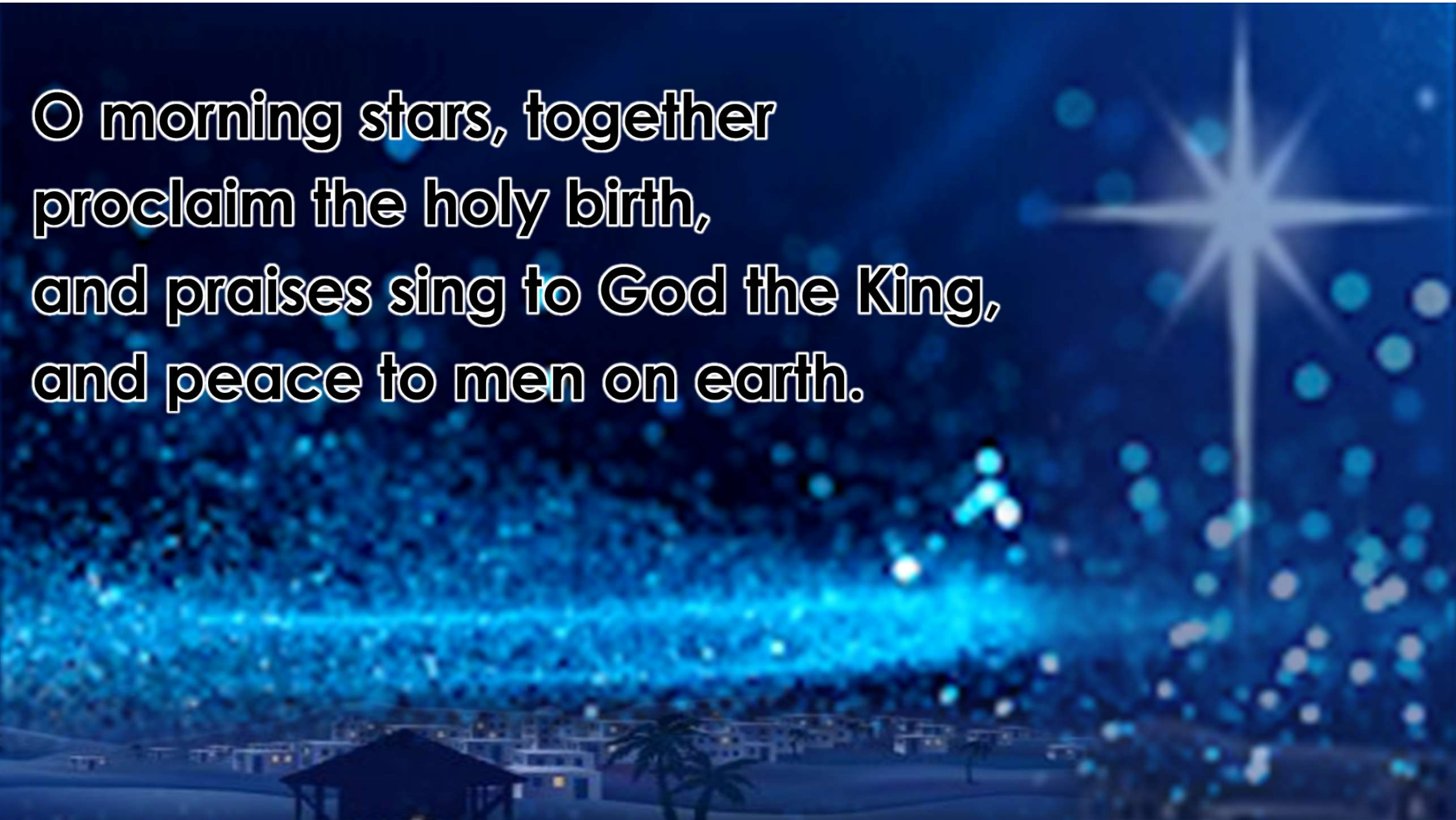
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.



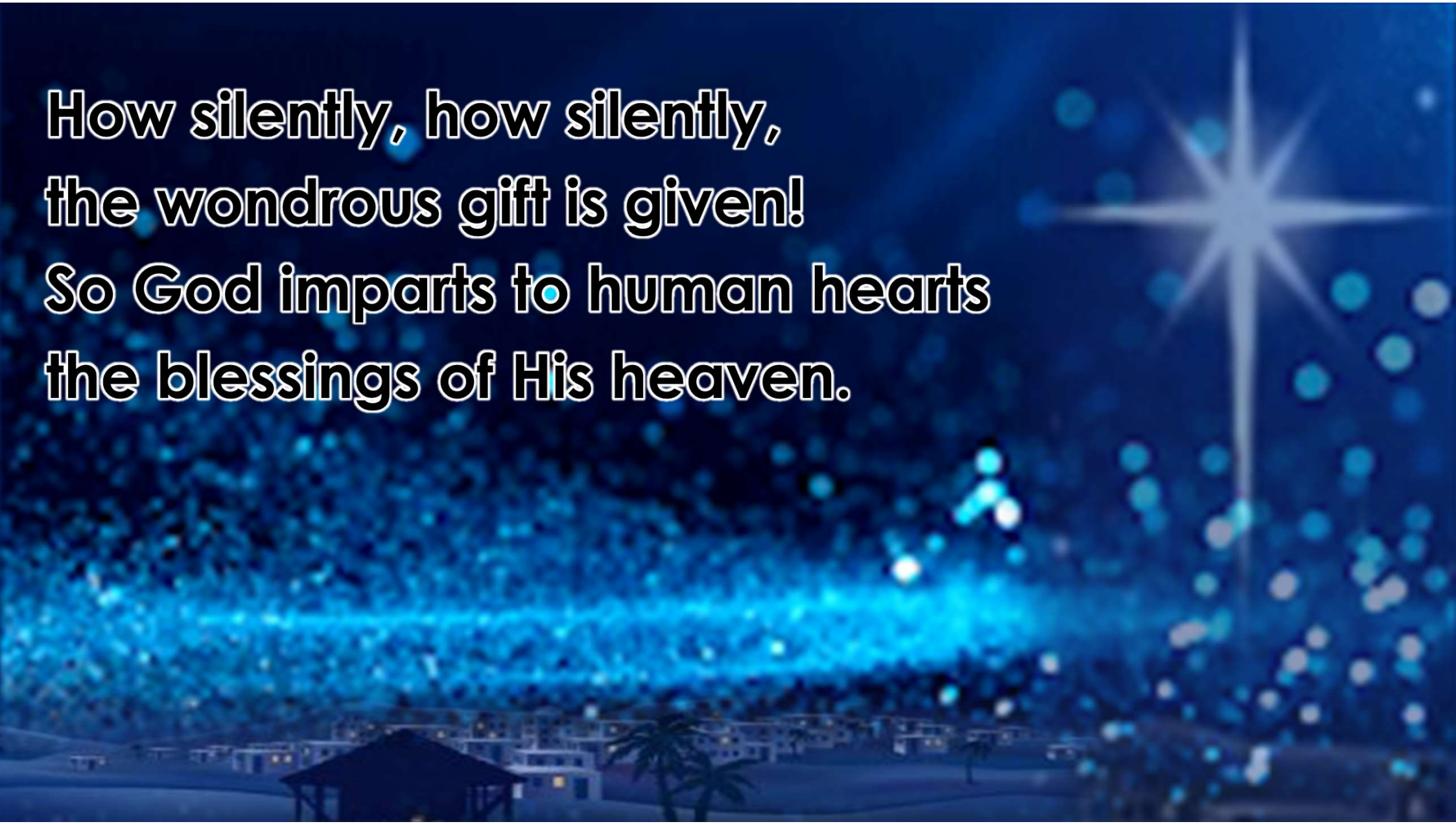
**For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**



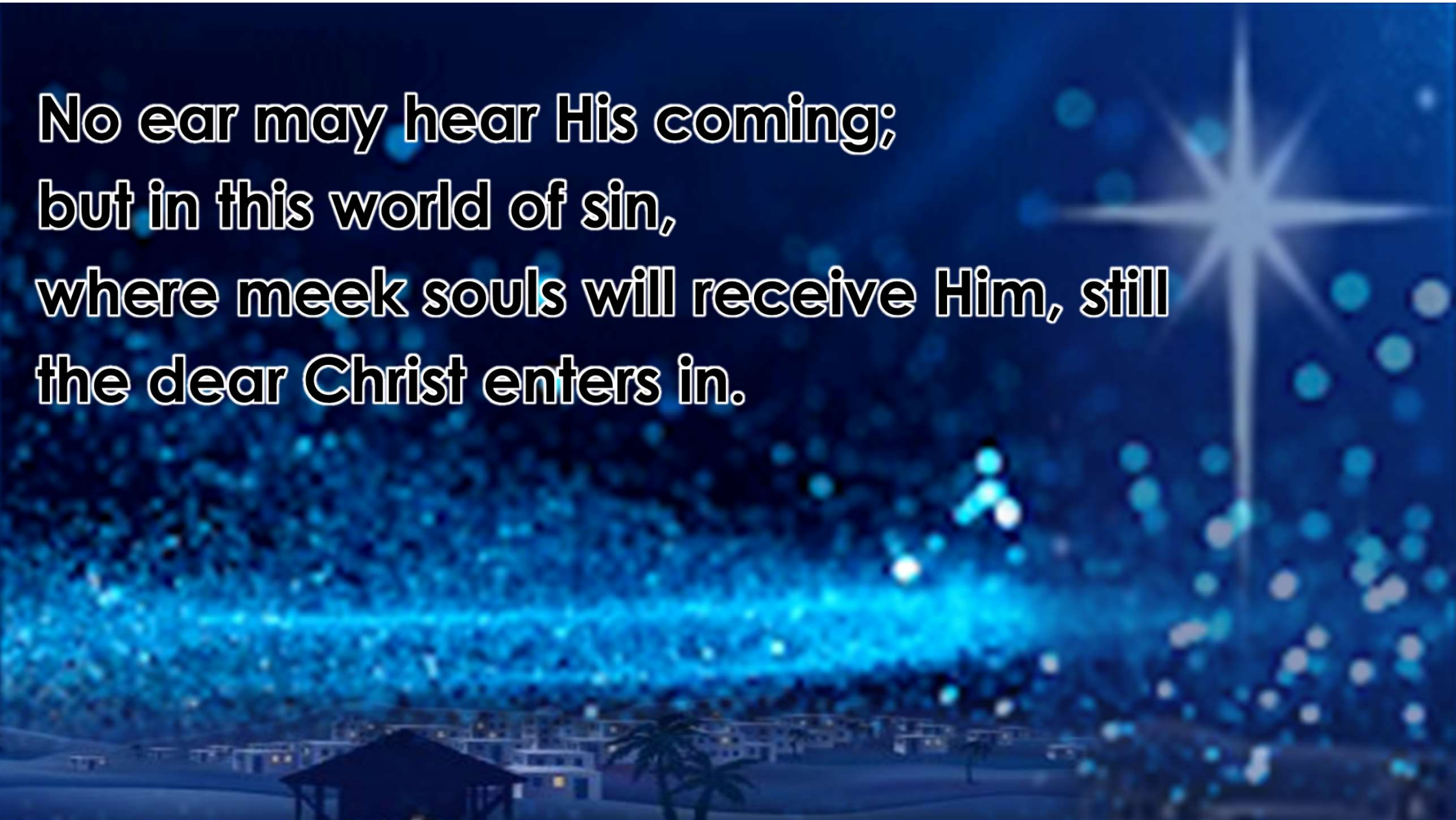
○ morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.



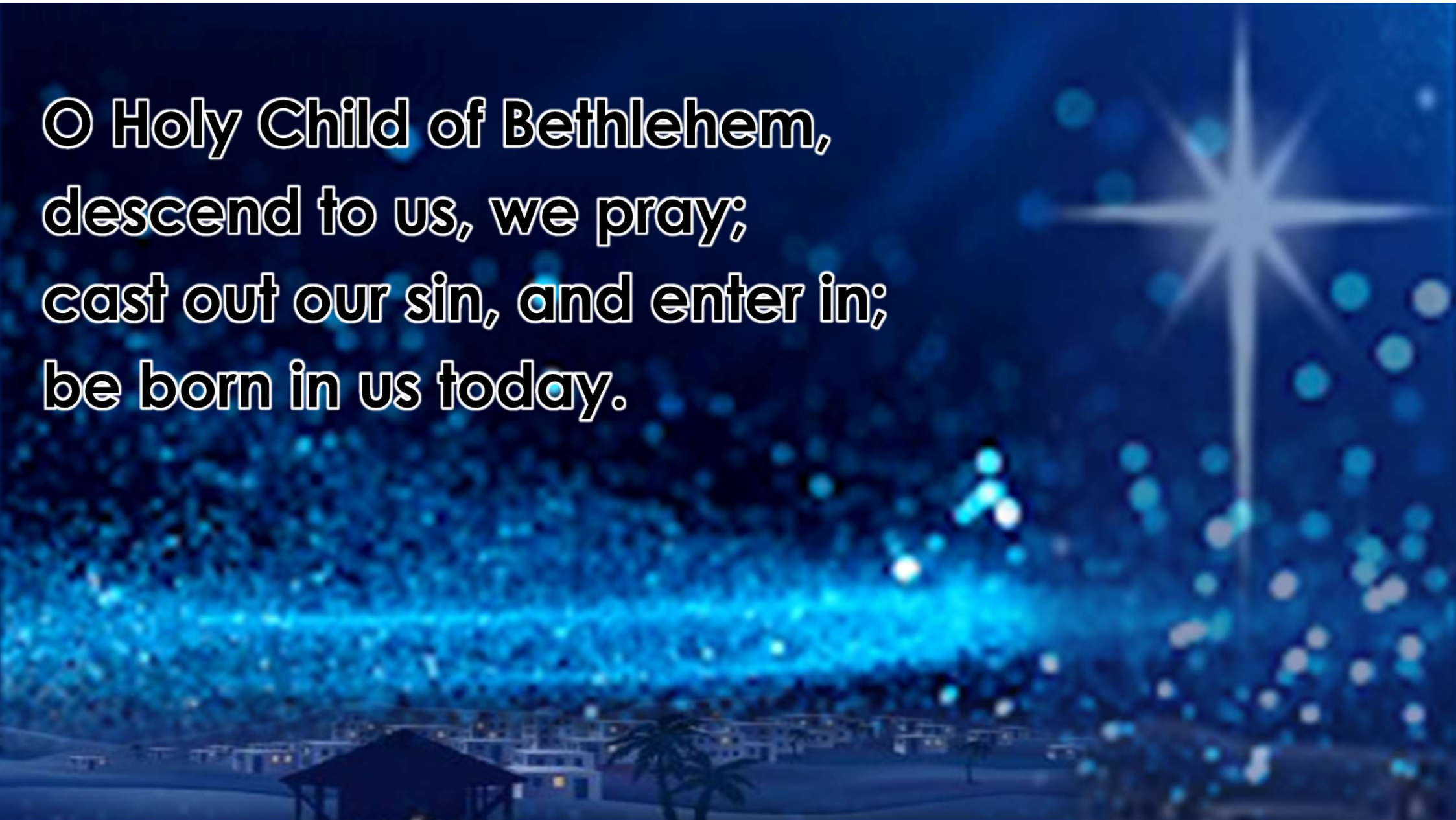
**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.**




No ear may hear His coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.



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





We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.

Philips Brooks, 1835-93

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John 1. 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1. 1-14

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John 1. 1-14

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.



John 1. 1-14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.



Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
worship we our Jesus;
but wherewith for sacred sign?

A large crowd of people is shown from behind, with their hands raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The scene is bathed in a deep red light, creating a dramatic and spiritual atmosphere. The background is filled with soft, out-of-focus light spots, suggesting a large indoor space like a church or concert hall.

Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti, 1830-94

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Luke 2. 8-15

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Luke 2. 8-15

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Luke 2. 8-15

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”
¹⁵ 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.”

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:-**

**'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'**

**The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

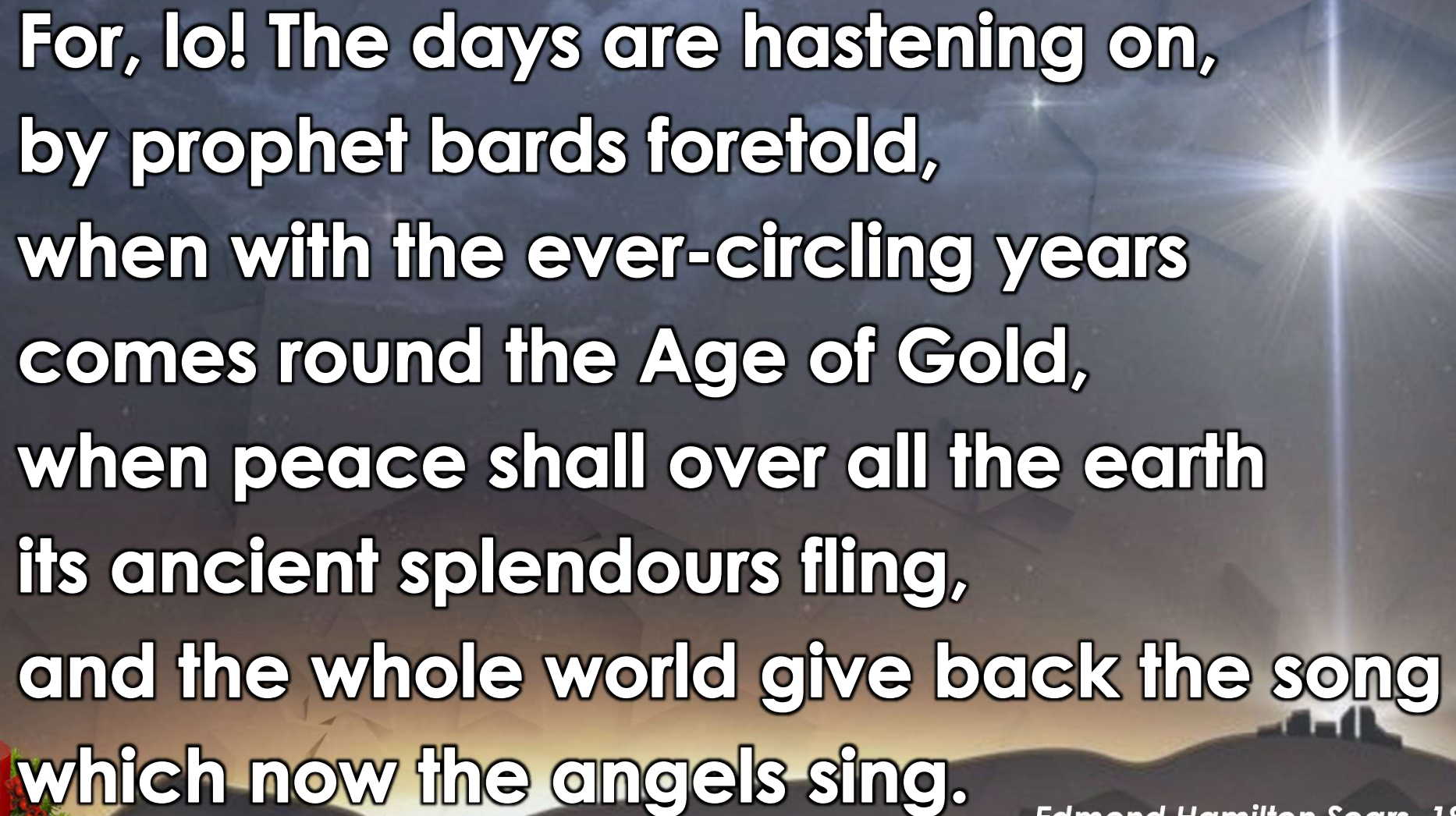


**Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**



**But with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angel sing.**





**For, lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the Age of Gold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Edmond Hamilton Sears, 1810-76

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Luke 1. 68-75

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the
God of Israel,
because he has come to his
people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of
salvation for us

in the house of his servant
David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy
prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who
hate us—

Luke 1. 68-75

⁷² to show mercy to our
ancestors

and to remember his holy
covenant,

⁷³ the oath he swore to our
father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of
our enemies,

and to enable us to serve
him without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and
righteousness before him all
our days.


A night sky with a bright star and a city silhouette. The sky is dark blue and black, with a bright star in the upper right corner that has a long vertical beam of light extending down to a silhouette of a city on a hill. The city is illuminated from below, and the sky is filled with stars and clouds. The overall scene is a metaphor for light in the night.

Light in the night

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

John 1:1-14

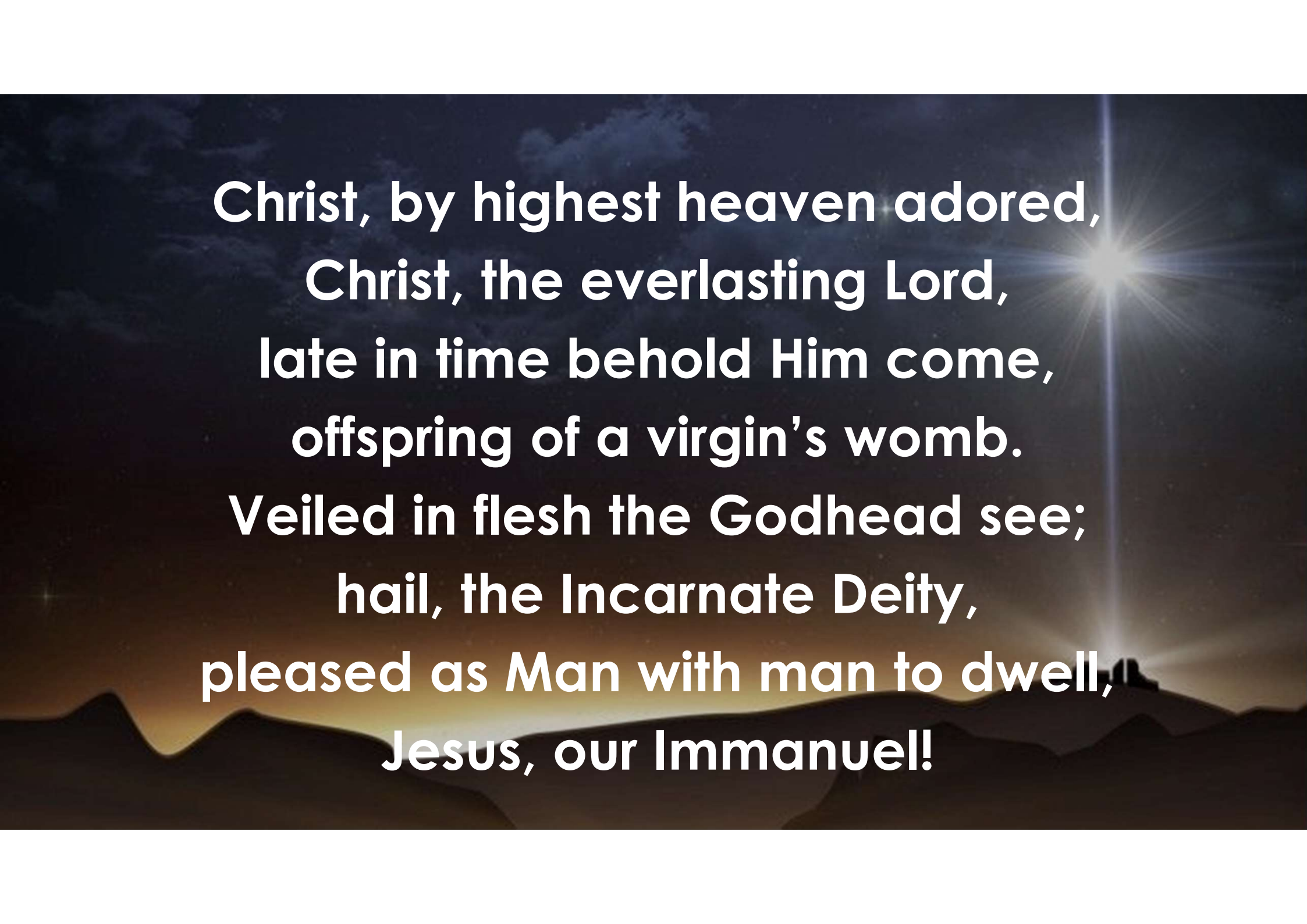
Luke 2:8-15

A night sky with a bright star and a city silhouette. The background is a dark blue and black sky with a bright star on the right side, casting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky, there is a silhouette of a city or town on a hill. The text is overlaid on the sky in white.

**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 the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’**

A night sky with a bright star and a silhouette of a city on a hill. The sky is dark blue with some clouds and a bright star with a vertical beam of light. The foreground shows a silhouette of a city on a hill against a warm, orange glow on the horizon.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

The background of the image is a dark night sky with a bright starburst on the right side, casting a vertical beam of light. Below the sky is a dark silhouette of a mountain range. The text is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!**

A night sky with a bright star and a silhouette of a city on a hill. The star is positioned in the upper right quadrant, emitting a vertical beam of light that illuminates the city silhouette on the horizon. The sky is dark blue with some clouds, and the horizon shows a gradient from dark blue to a lighter, hazy glow. The city silhouette is on the right side of the horizon, with several tall buildings. The overall scene is serene and evocative of a celestial event.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

A night sky with a bright starburst on the right side, casting a vertical beam of light. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of a city skyline against a lighter, hazy horizon.

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.**

**Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:**



*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

Charles Wesley, 1707-88All


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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**


A night sky with a bright star and a silhouette of a building on a hill. The star is a bright, multi-pointed star with a vertical beam of light extending downwards. The background is a dark blue and black sky with some clouds. The foreground shows the silhouette of a hill with a building on top. The text is overlaid on the sky.

Christmas Morning Service

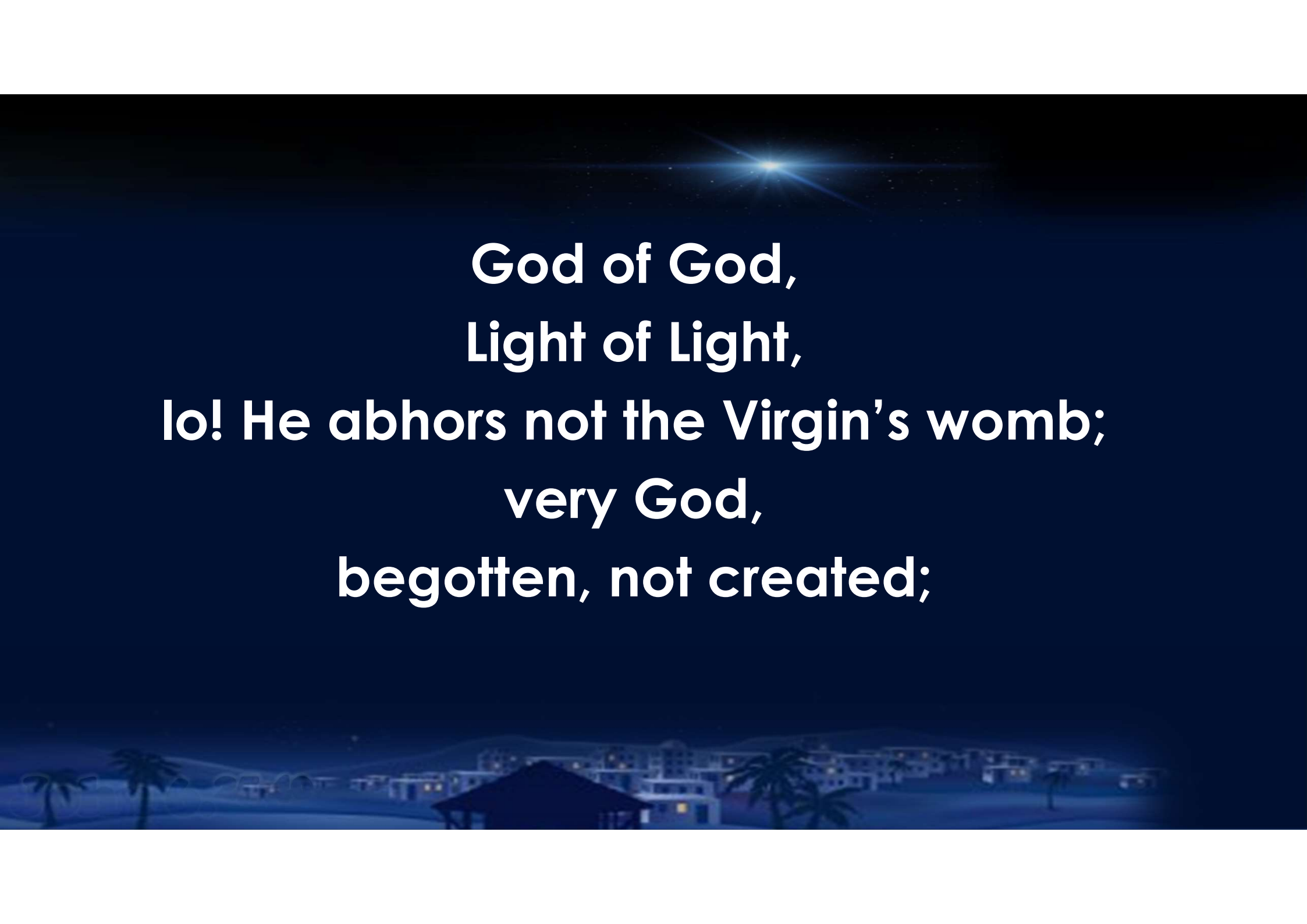
Born for you
Luke 2:1-7
Rev Jerry Middleton

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 bright star and some clouds. The text is overlaid on the scene.


**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;**

A night scene of a town with palm trees and a bright star in the sky. The town is illuminated with warm lights, and the sky is dark with a bright star in the upper center. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.


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




**God of God,
Light of Light,
Io! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created;**




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



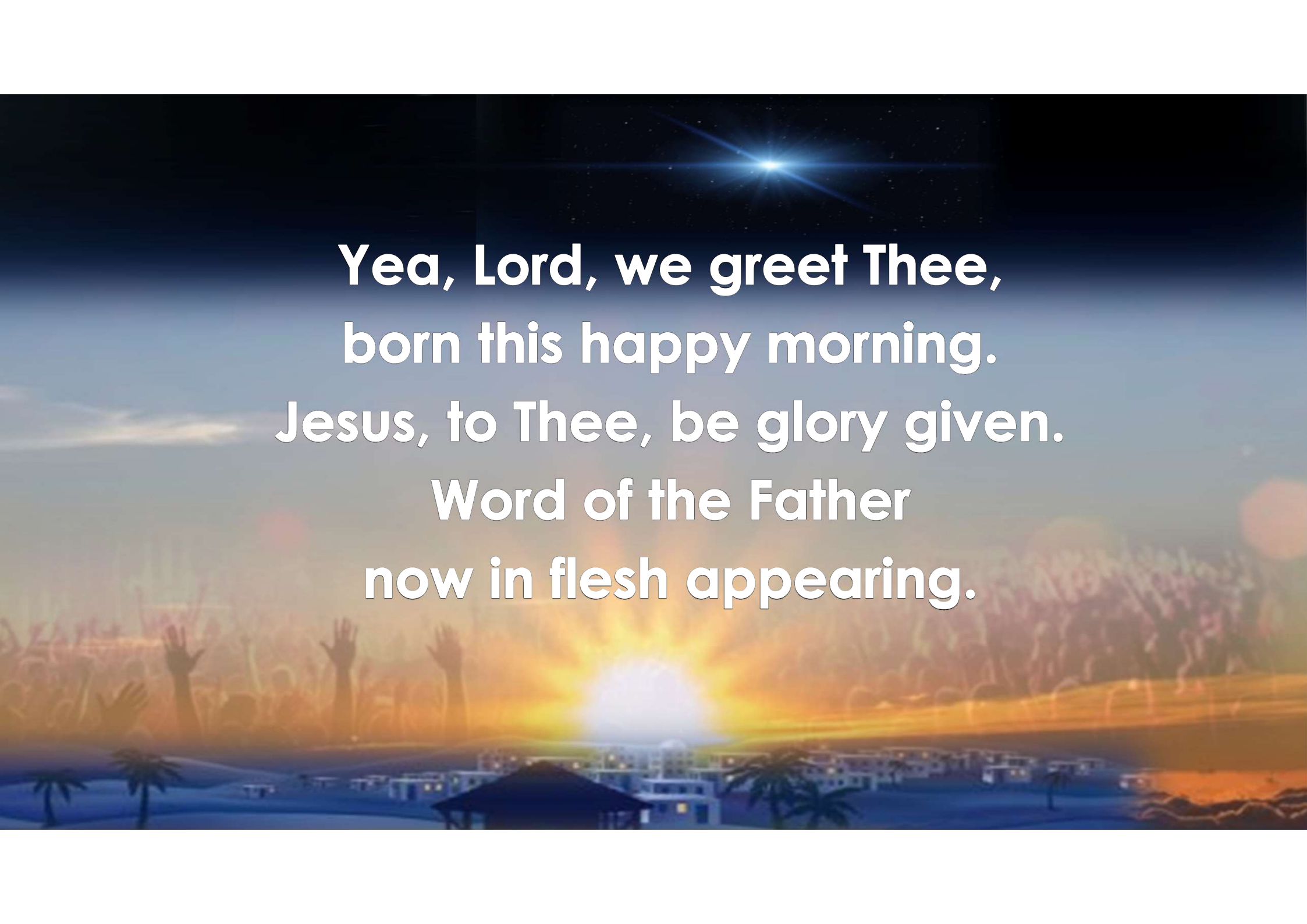
**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest':**

The background of the image is a dark, blue-toned night scene. At the top center, a bright star or light source creates a lens flare effect. Below the text, a large crowd of people is visible, their hands raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The scene is dimly lit, with some lights from buildings or structures visible in the lower portion of the image.


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



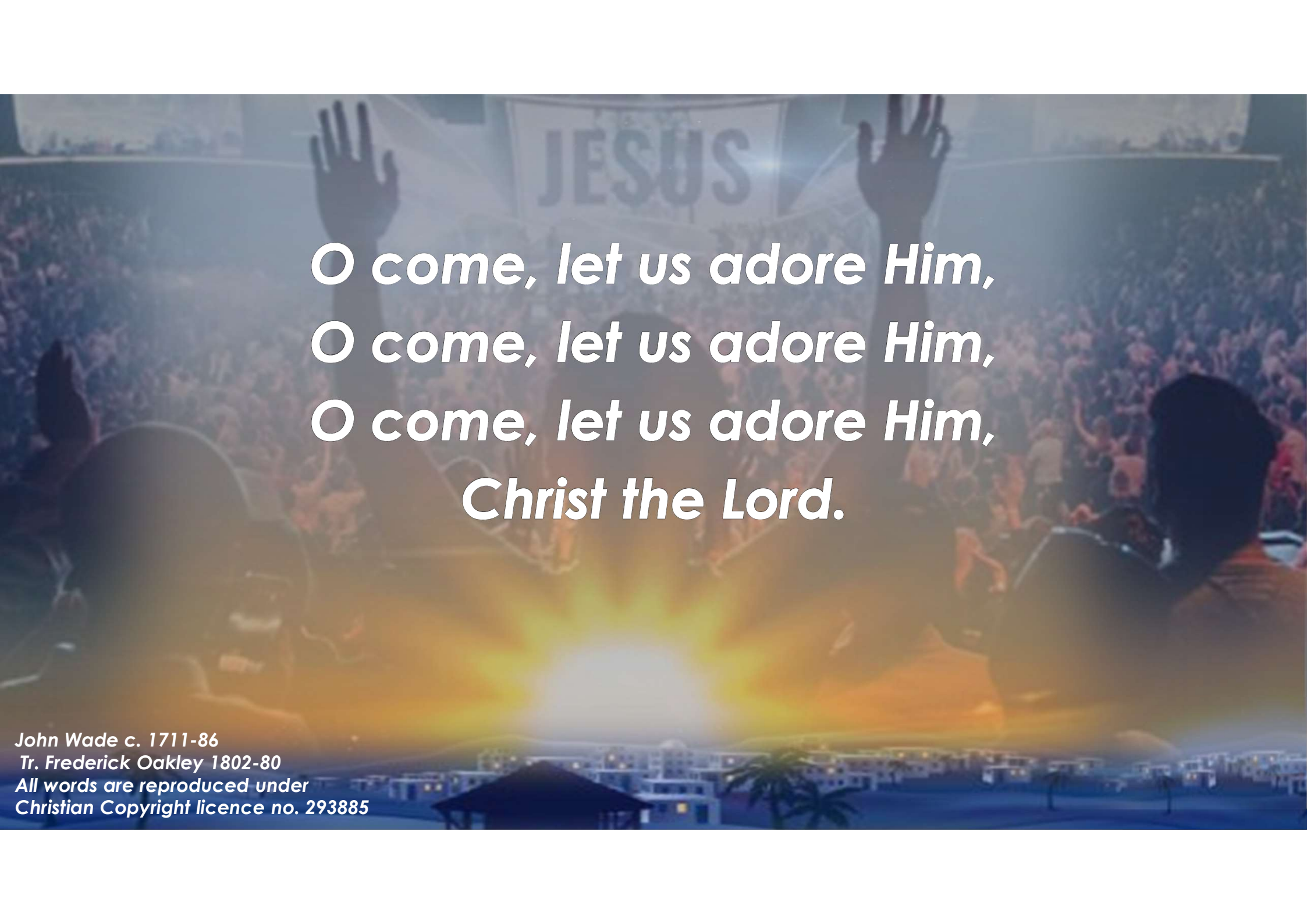
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*



**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee, be glory given.
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing.**



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

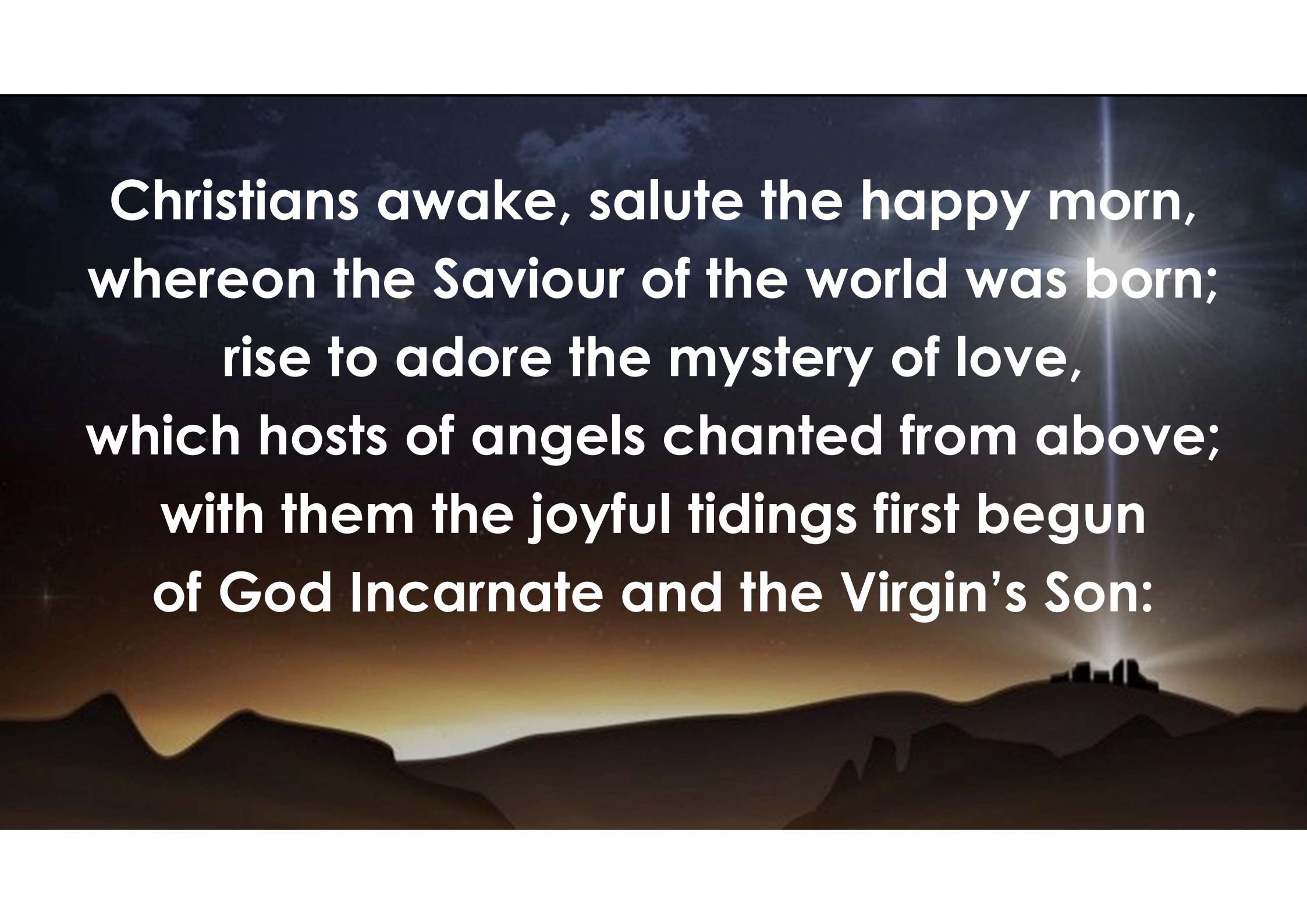
A large crowd of people is gathered for a religious event. In the center, a banner reads "JESUS". Many people have their hands raised in the air. The scene is illuminated by a bright, warm light, possibly from a stage or a large screen, creating a glowing effect. The background shows a cityscape at night with lights from buildings and palm trees.

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

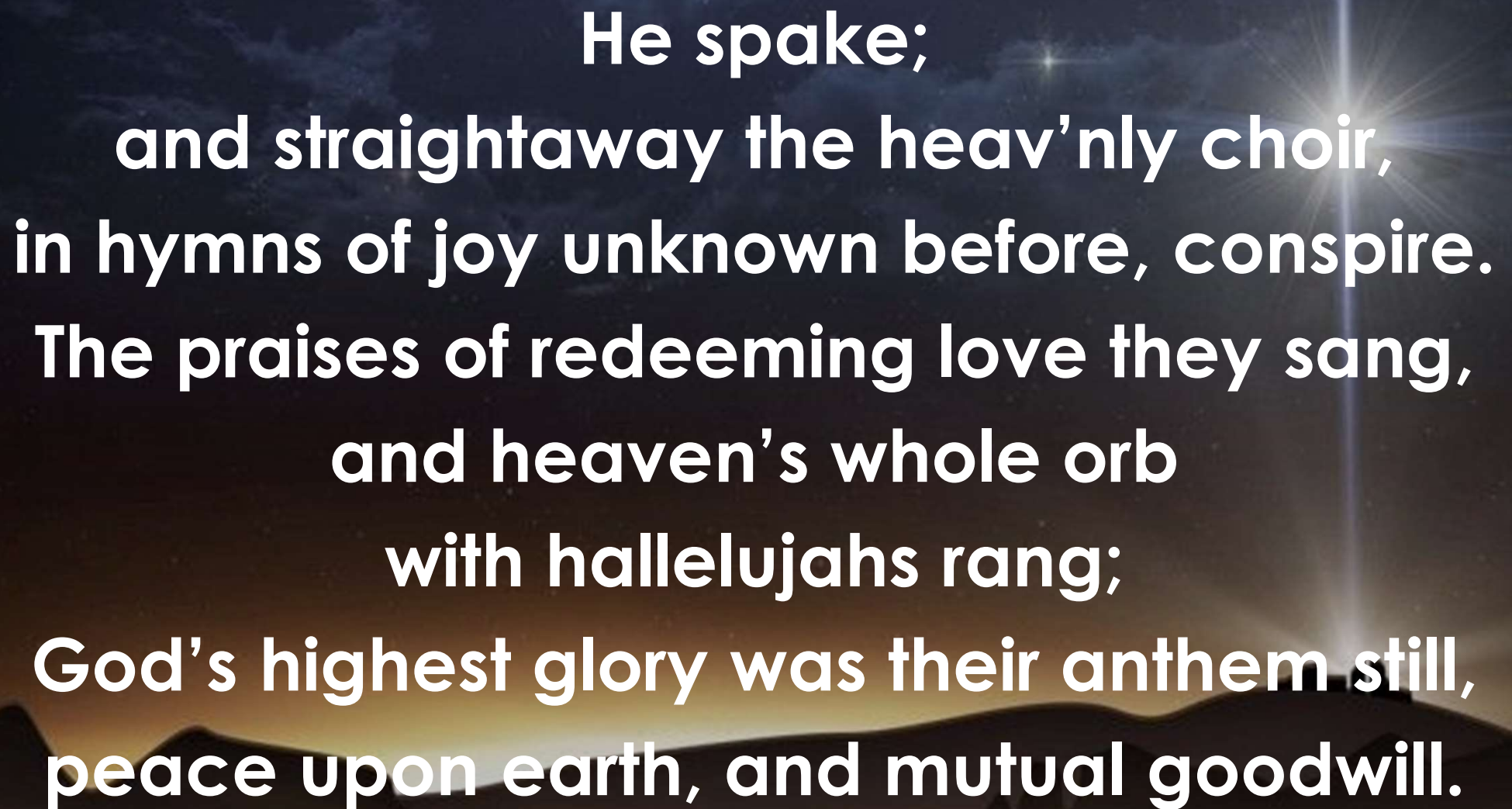
*John Wade c. 1711-86
Tr. Frederick Oakley 1802-80
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Prayer

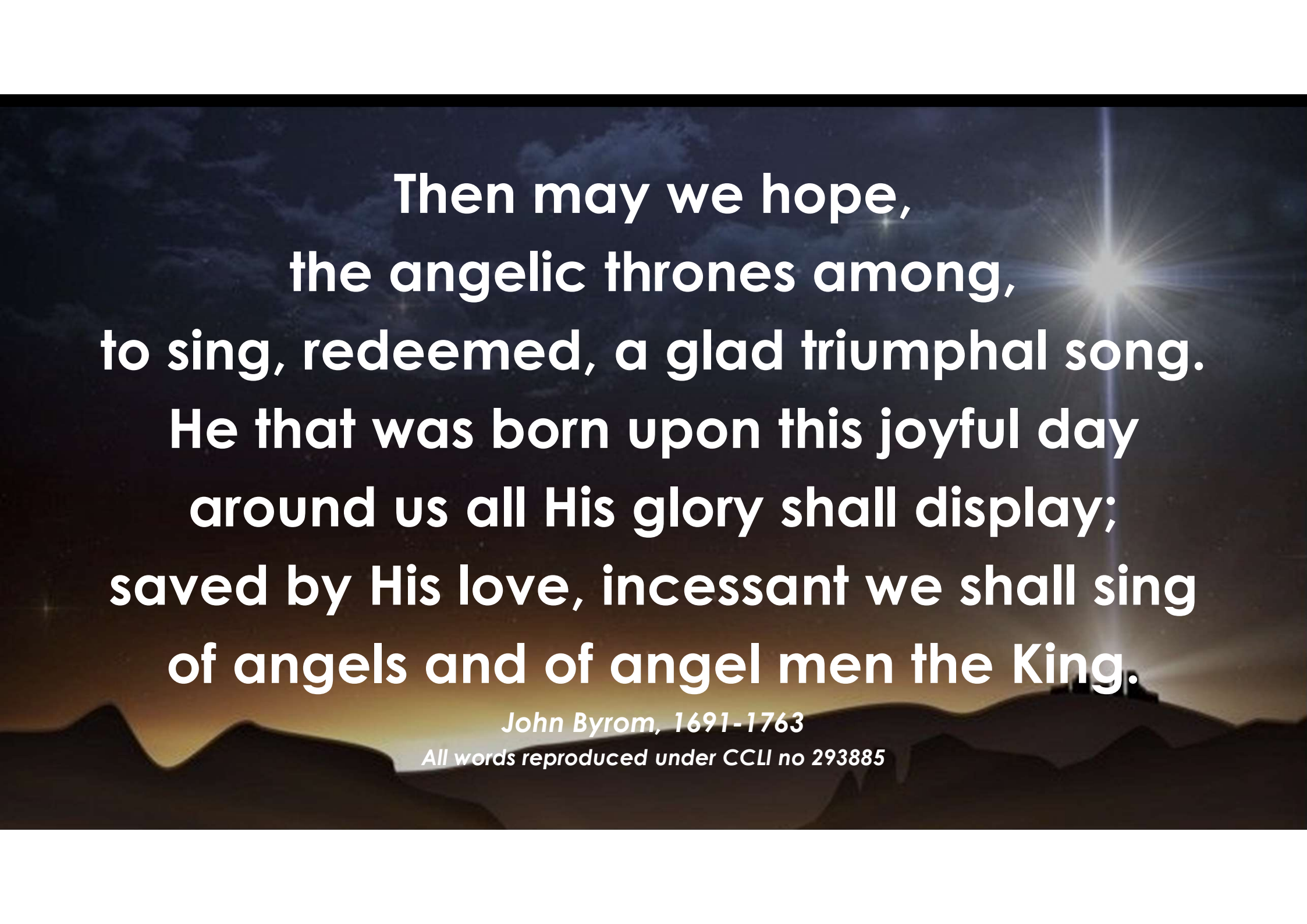


The background of the image is a dark night sky with a bright starburst or light source on the right side, creating a lens flare effect. Below the sky, there is a silhouette of a mountain range. On the right side of the range, a small building or structure is visible on a peak. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with the text overlaid in white.

**Christians awake, salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son:**



**He spake;
and straightaway the heav'nly choir,
in hymns of joy unknown before, conspire.
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb
with hallelujahs rang;
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace upon earth, and mutual goodwill.**



Then may we hope,
the angelic thrones among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.
He that was born upon this joyful day
around us all His glory shall display;
saved by His love, incessant we shall sing
of angels and of angel men the King.

John Byrom, 1691-1763

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Children's Talk



1.



**God rest you merry, gentlemen
let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
to save poor souls from Satan's power
when we had gone astray,**

vv. 2 & 5 sung by women
vv. 3 & 6 sung by men





**And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**



2.

Women

From God that is our Father,
the blessed angels came
unto some certain shepherds
with tidings of the same;
that there was born in Bethlehem,
the Son of God by name.

All





**And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**



3.

Men

**Go, fear not, said God's angels,
let nothing you affright,
for there is born in Bethlehem,
of a pure Virgin bright,
One able to advance you,
and throw down Satan quite.**

All





**And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**



4.



The shepherds at those tidings,
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest storms of wind,
and strait they came to Bethlehem,
the Son of God to find.





**And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**



5.

Women

Now when they came to Bethlehem,
where our sweet Saviour lay,
they found Him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay,
the blessed Virgin kneeling down,
unto the Lord did pray.

All





**And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**



6.

Men

With sudden joy and gladness,
the shepherds were beguil'd,
to see the Babe of Israel,
before His mother mild,
on them with joy and cheerfulness,
rejoice each mother's child.

All





**And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**



7.



Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
like we true loving brethren,
each other to embrace,
for the merry time of Christmas,
is drawing on a-pace.





**And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**



Traditional

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Luke 2. 1-7

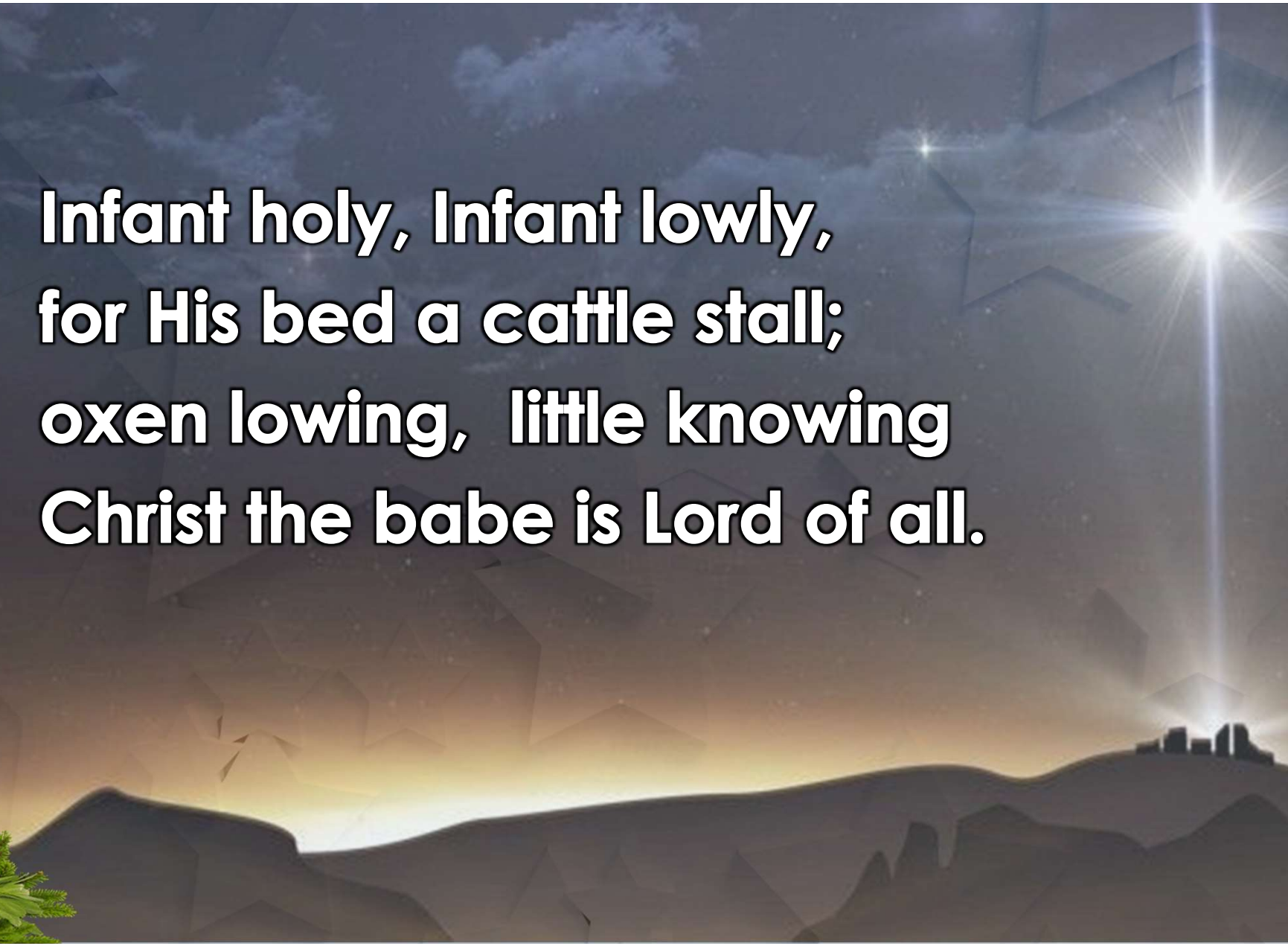
In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David,

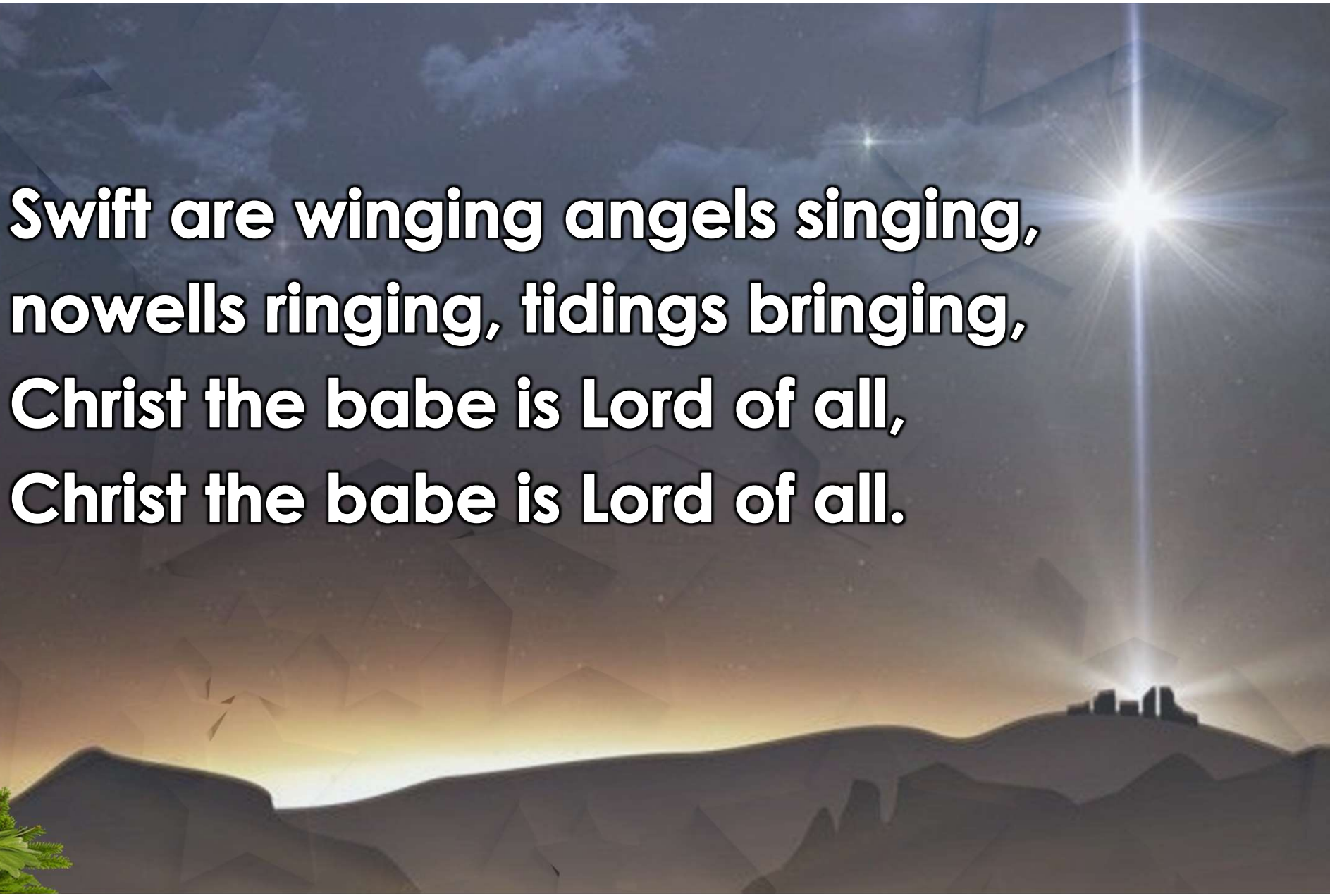
Luke 2. 1-7

because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**Infant holy, Infant lowly,
for His bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

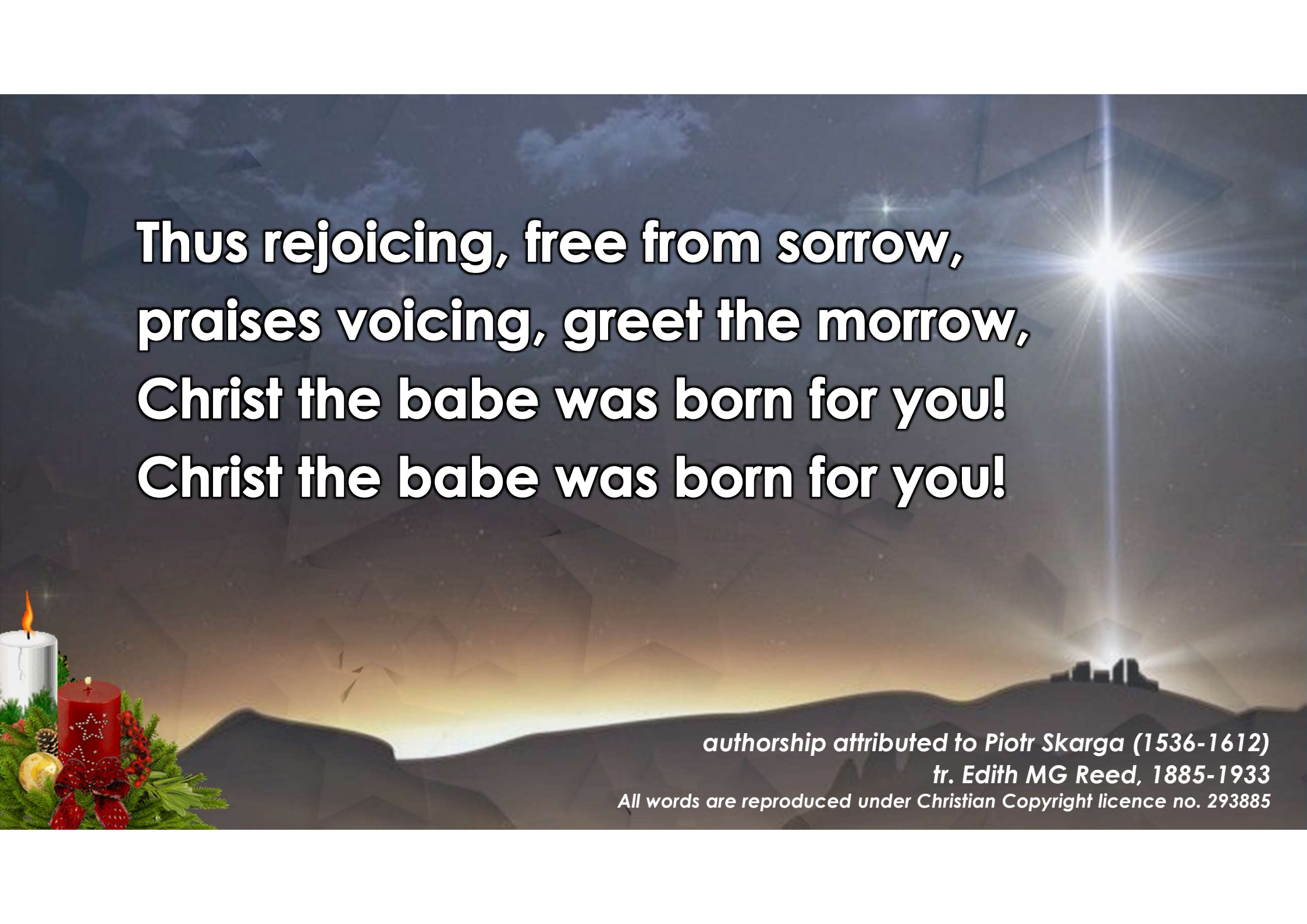


**Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**



**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.**






**Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!**



authorship attributed to Piotr Skarga (1536-1612)

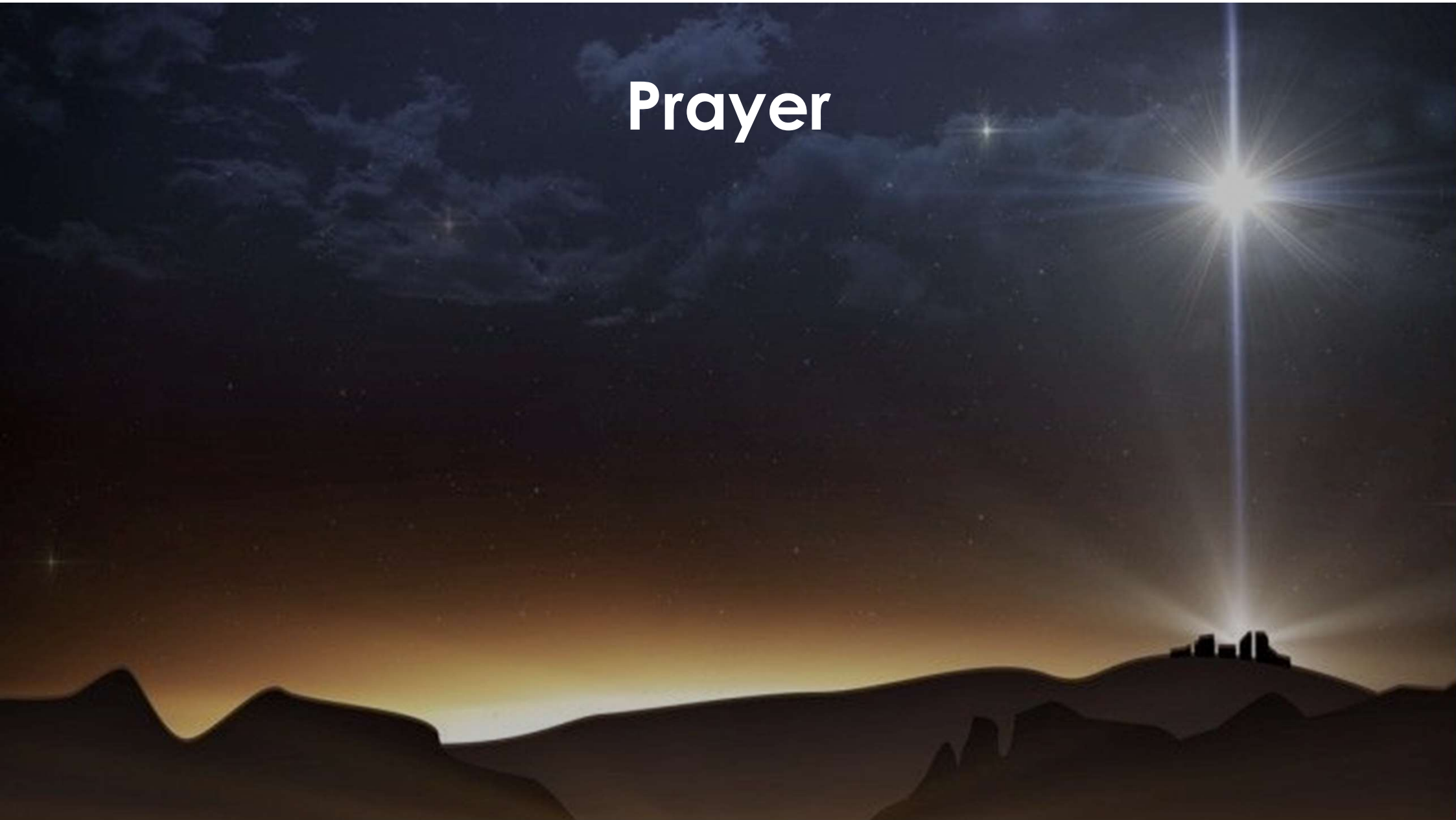
tr. Edith MG Reed, 1885-1933


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A night sky with a dark blue and black background, featuring a bright star with a vertical beam of light shining down from the right side. The beam illuminates a silhouette of a building on a hill in the foreground. The sky is filled with stars and clouds, and the horizon is a mix of dark and light colors.


Born for you
Luke 2:1-7

Prayer

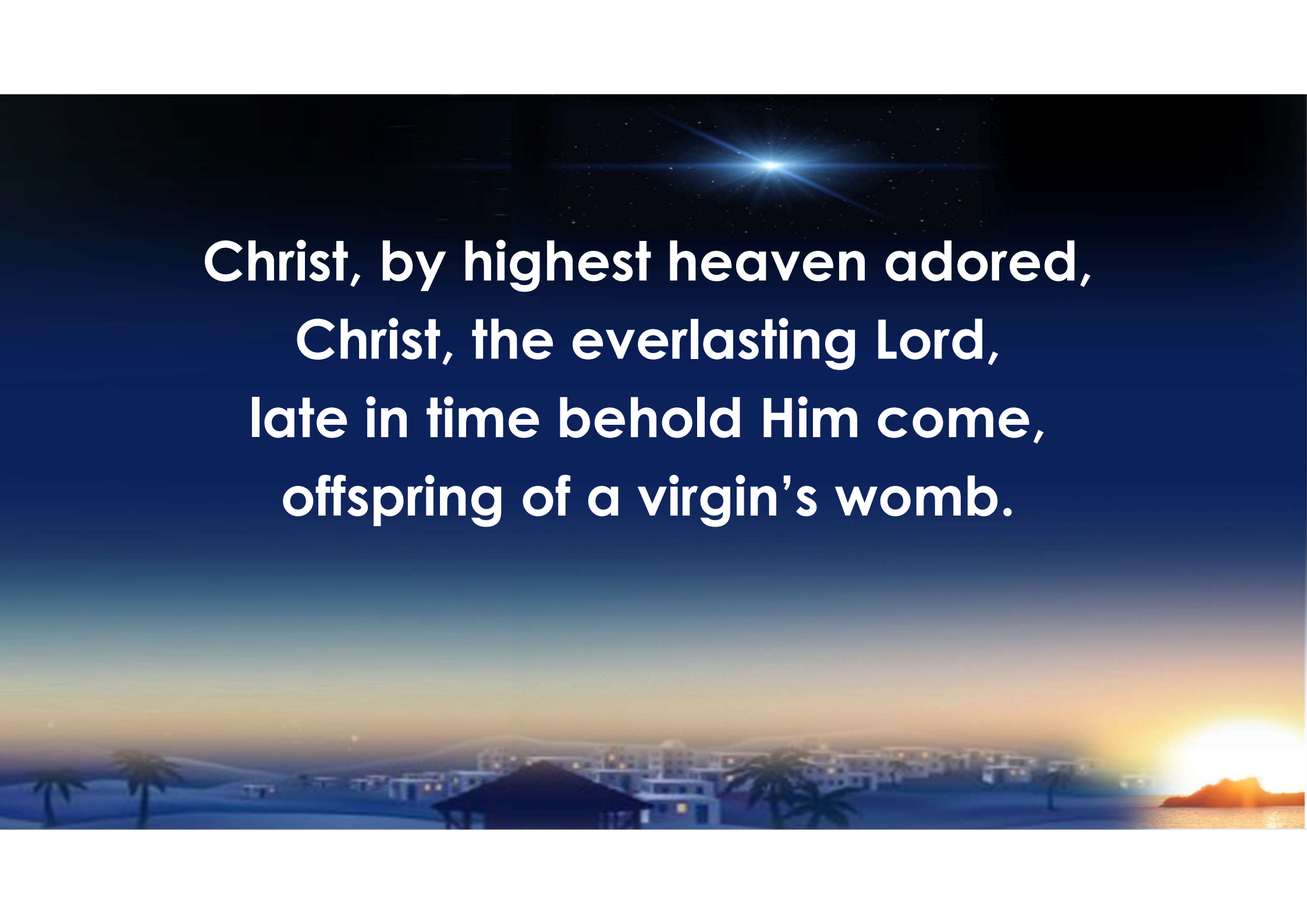




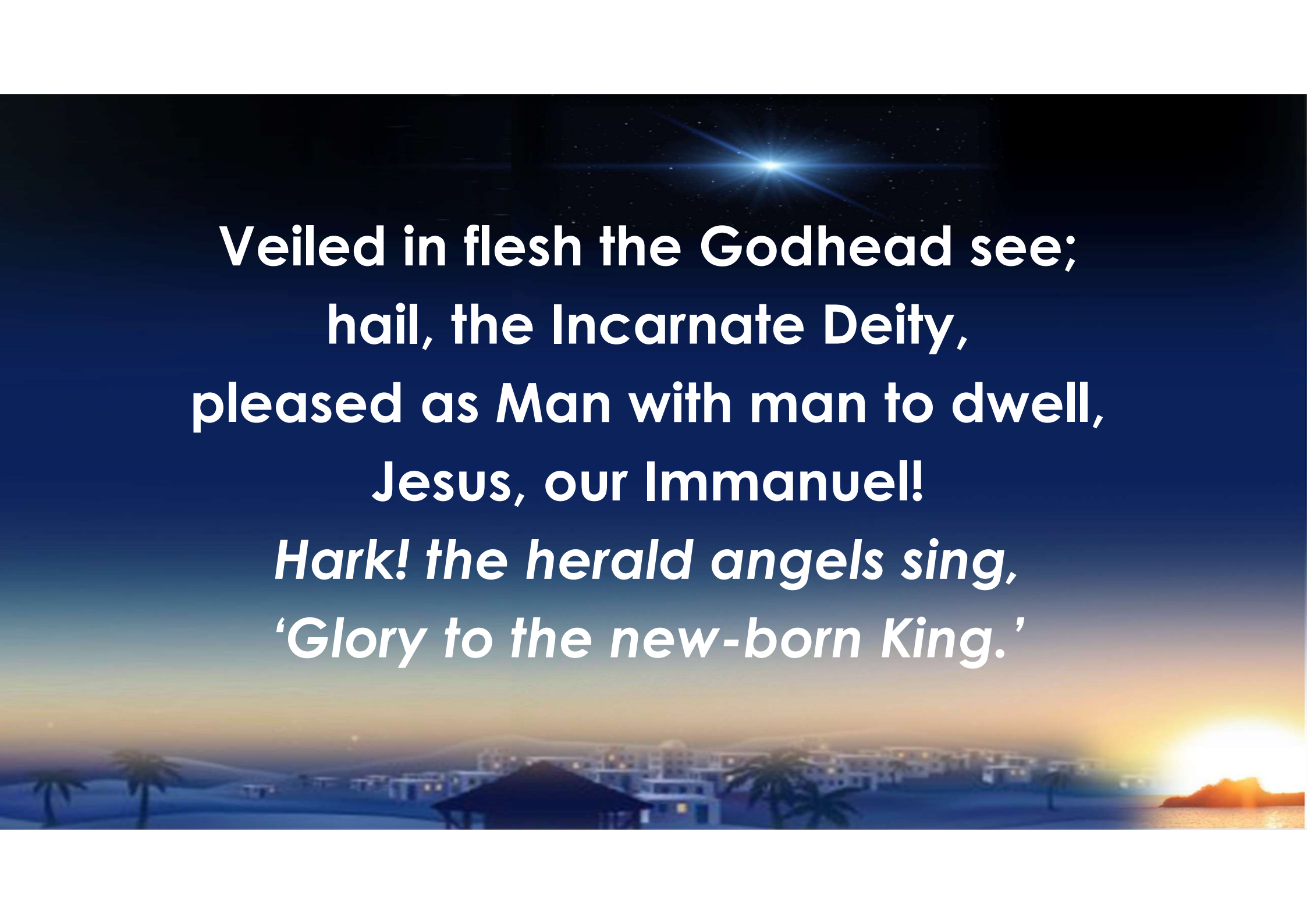
**Hark! The herald angels sing,
‘Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!’**



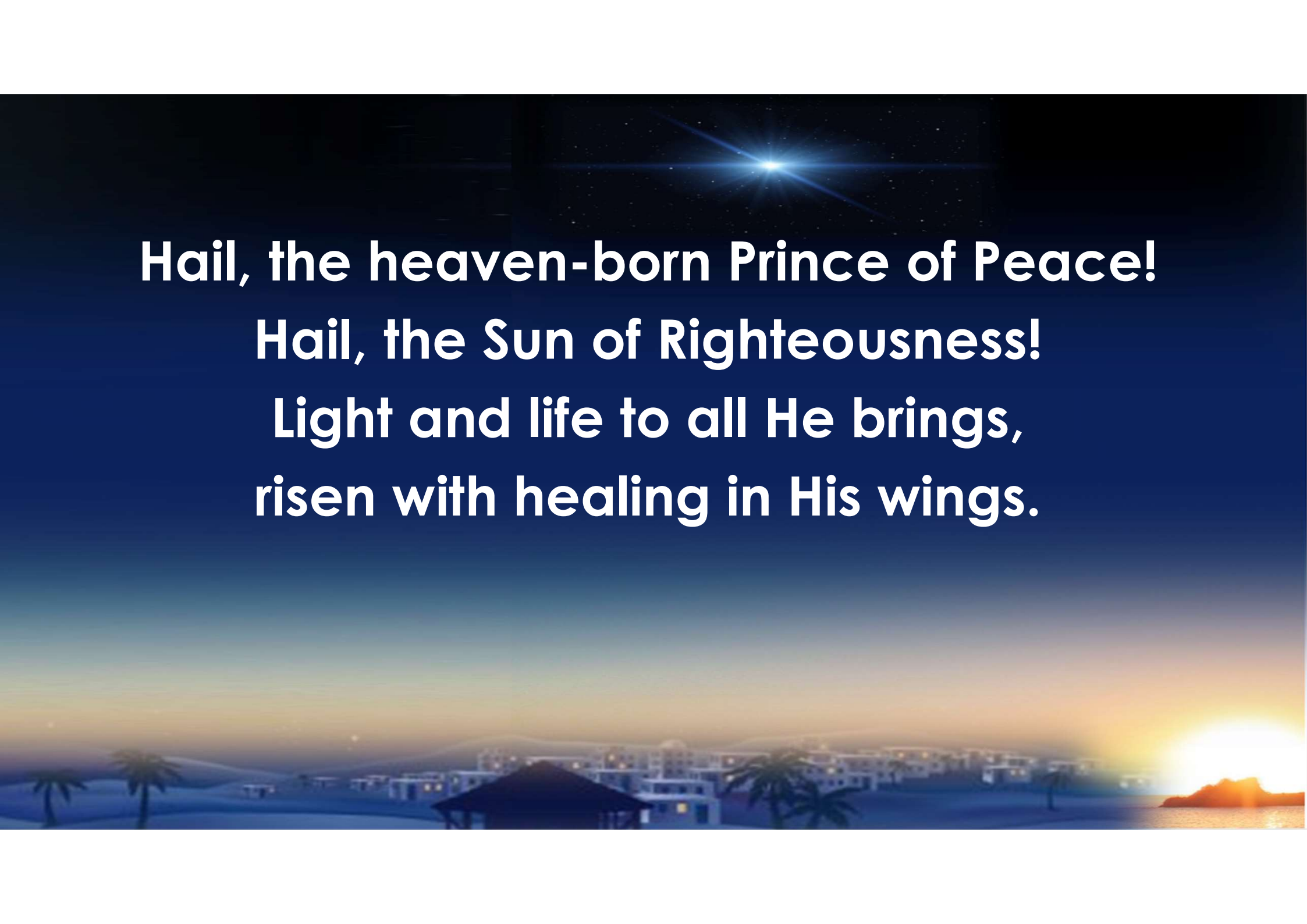
**Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'***



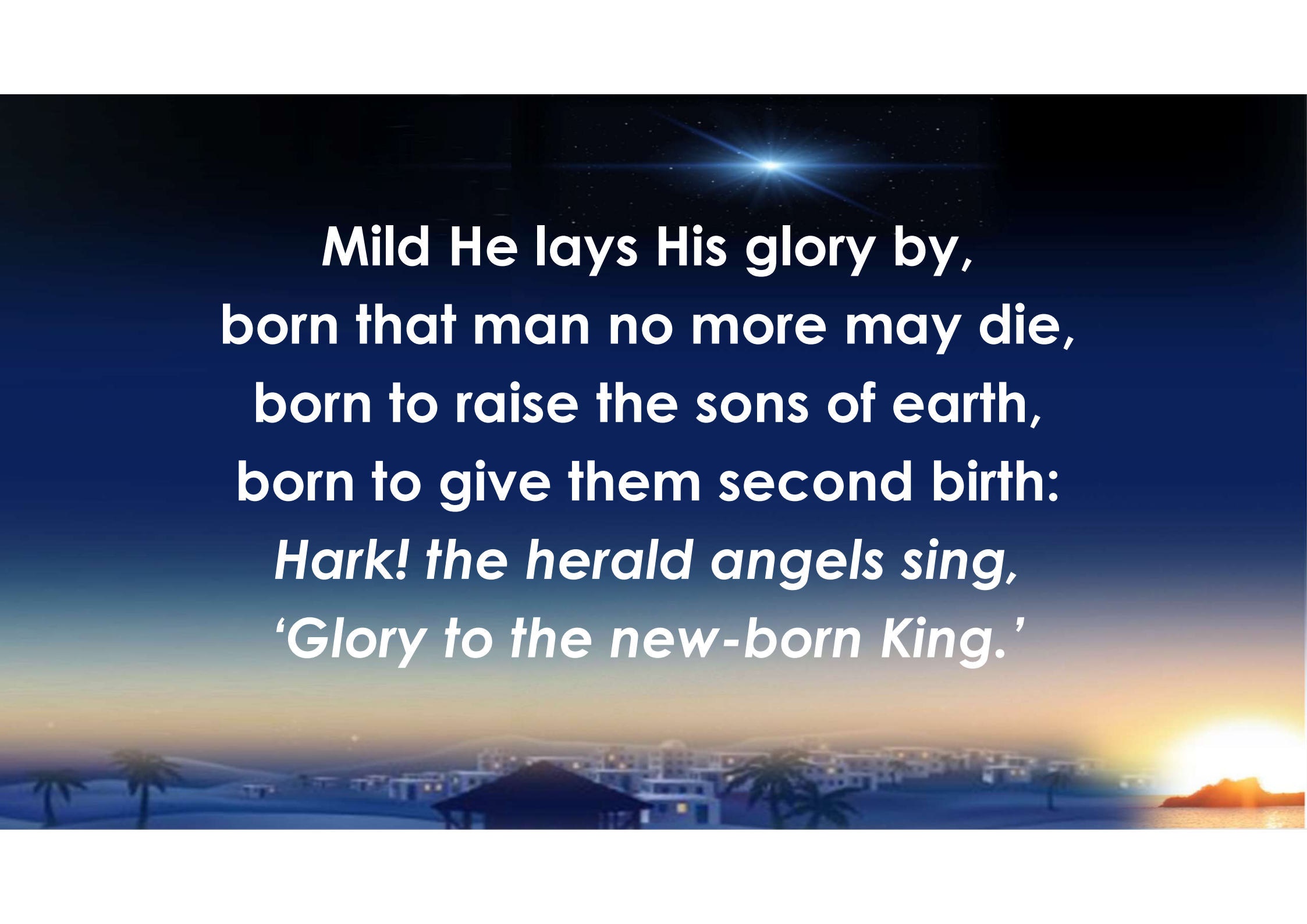
**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.**

The background of the image is a composite of two scenes. The upper portion shows a dark night sky with a bright, multi-pointed starburst in the upper center. The lower portion shows a cityscape at sunset or sunrise, with buildings and palm trees silhouetted against a warm, orange and yellow sky. The text is overlaid on the night sky portion.

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!**
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

The image is a composite. The top half features a dark, starry night sky with a prominent, bright blue starburst in the upper center. The bottom half shows a sunset over a coastal town. The sun is a large, bright orange-yellow orb on the right side, casting a glow over the scene. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of palm trees and a dark, covered structure. In the middle ground, a town with several buildings is visible, some with lights on. The background shows a range of mountains under a hazy, orange-tinted sky.

**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.**



**Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'***

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**

Church Calendar

You'll find dates for your diary on our
website:

<http://www.gilcomston.org/calendar>