

CHRISTMAS EVE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2022

5:00 PM

PRELUDE

Sleep, O Lovely Child

Simone

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

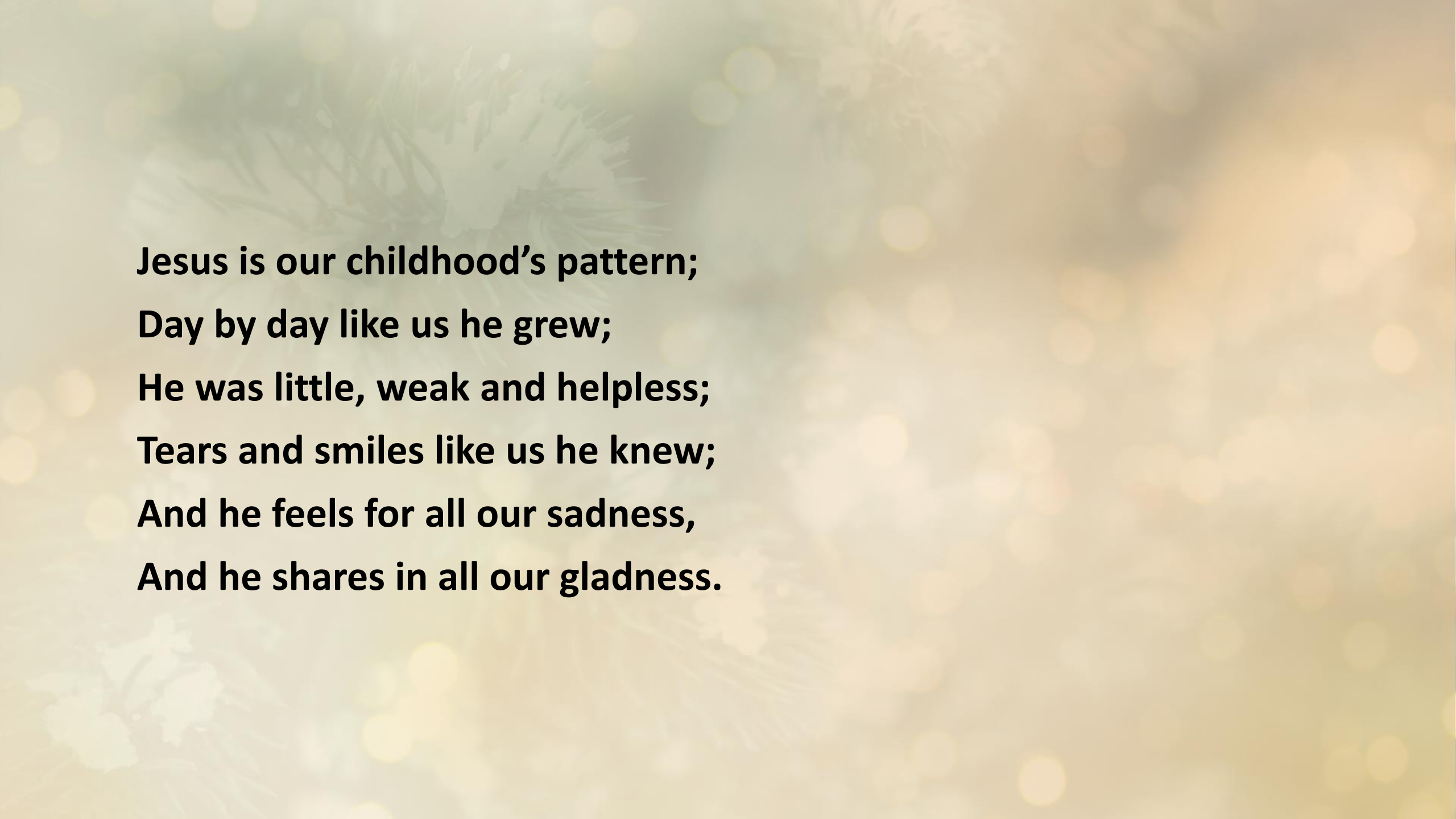
Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

(vs. 1 SOLO)

*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 meek and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**



**Jesus 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 feels for all our sadness,
And he shares in all 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.**

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.
Let us go with the shepherds:

MANY: Let us go to find the Savior!

ONE: Let us go with the wise ones:

MANY: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

ONE: Let us go with the poor and humble:

MANY: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

ONE: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations. Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

MANY: Christ the Lord!

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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 from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he come;
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, 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!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all 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!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

(Joe & Pat Rawson)

Reader: Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope... (The first candle is lit.)

Because so many swords have not yet been remade into plowshares, we pray for peace... (The second candle is lit.)

Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy...(The third candle is lit.)

Because hatred is still so strong, and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love... (The fourth candle is lit.)

God has come to us as a child, to dwell with us, and to walk with us. (The Christ candle is lit.)

Reader: May the light and the fire from these candles turn to ashes all that would prevent the God of hope and peace and joy and love from being born among us. Friends, be not afraid, even now — *even now* — the light of Christ is illuminating the world, on earth as it is in heaven!

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

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

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until 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 fit us to heaven to live with thee there.**

THE NATIVITY STORY

(as reported by THE CAMEL BROADCASTING COMPANY)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen,
Snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels
May have gathered there;
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.**

**What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him:
Give my heart.**

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY SOLO

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL

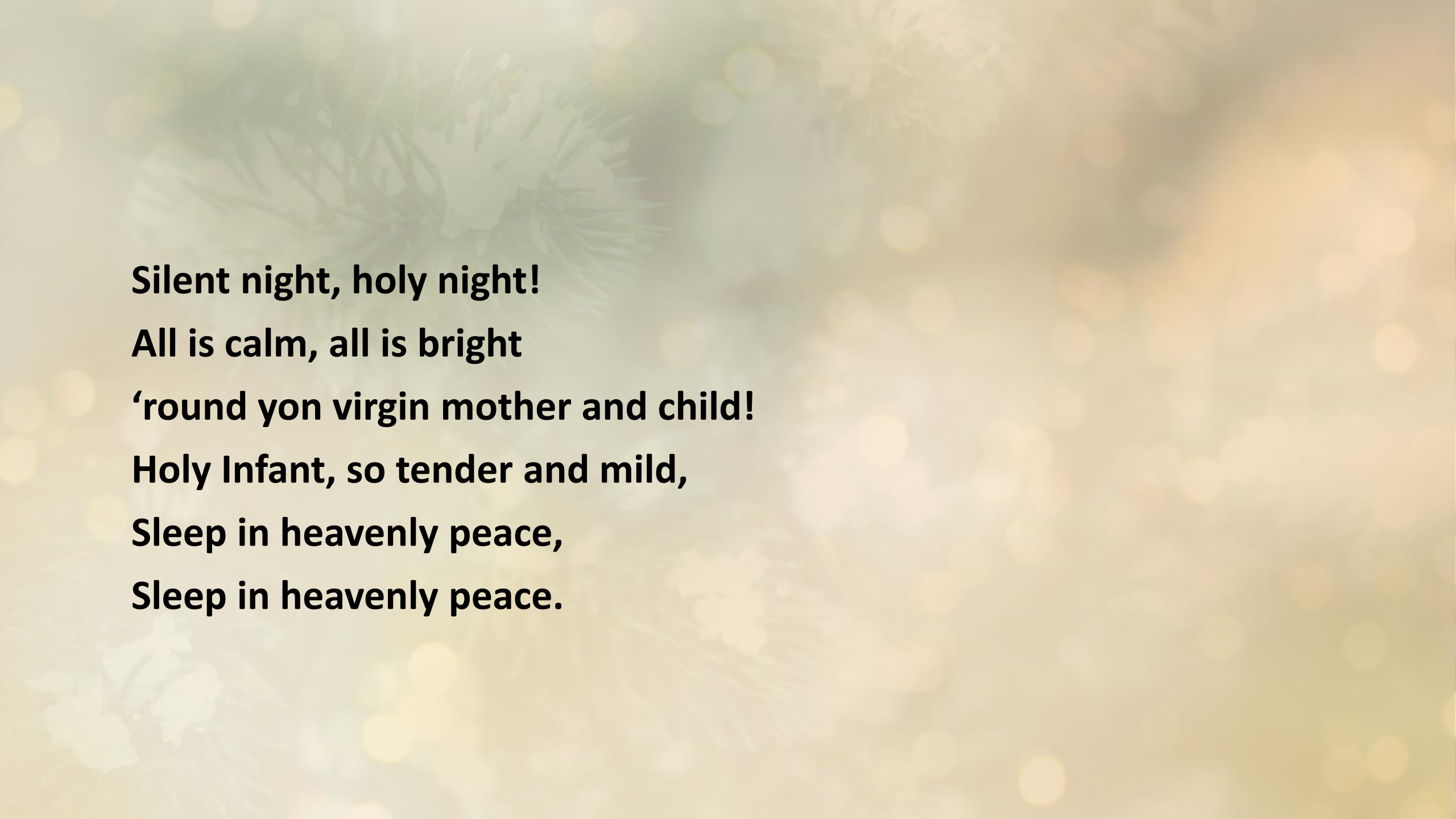
SPREADING THE LIGHT

As the light is passed to you, dip your unlighted candle to the flame in the lit candle. Then, turn and pass the light along.

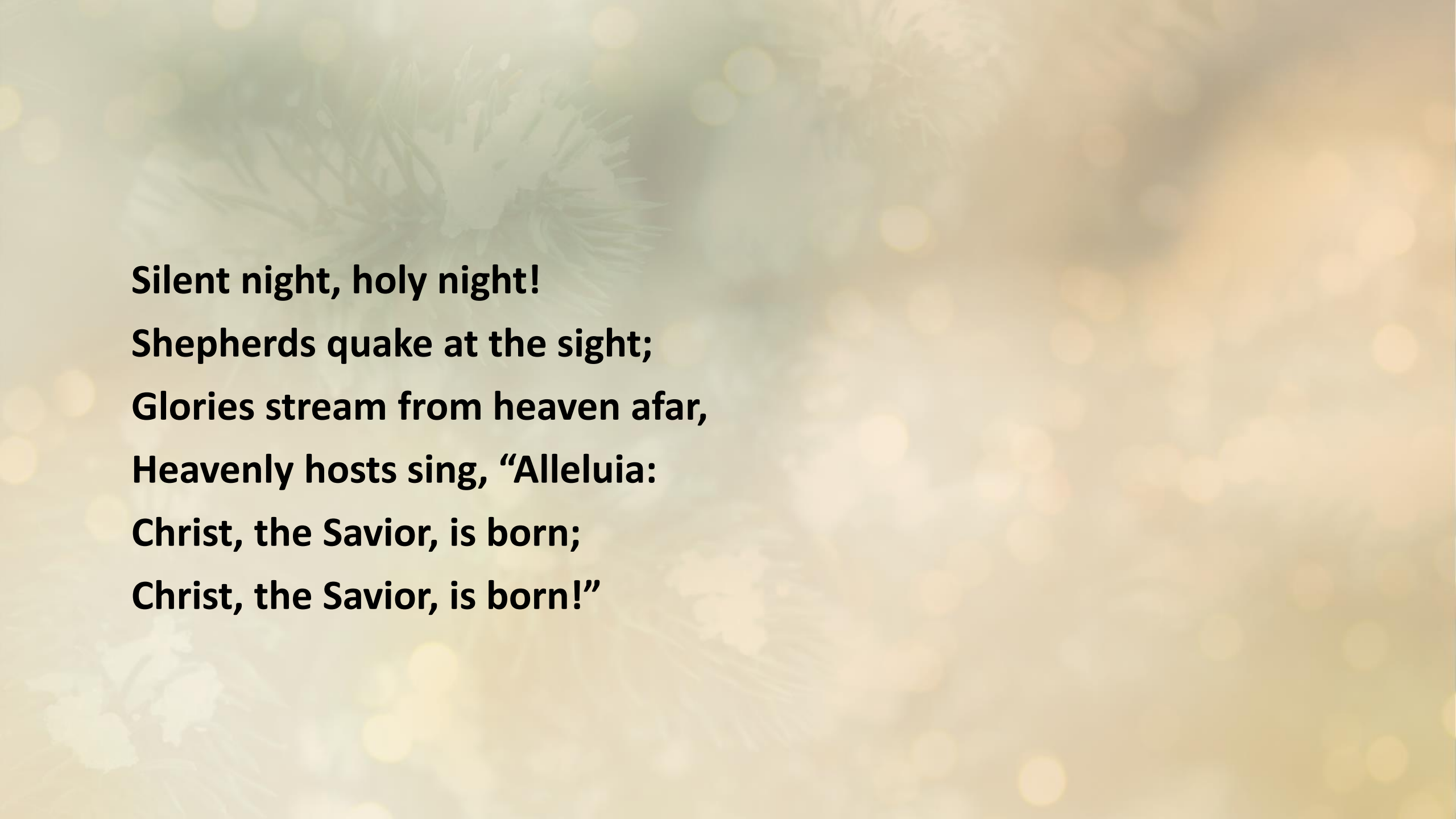
HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night!

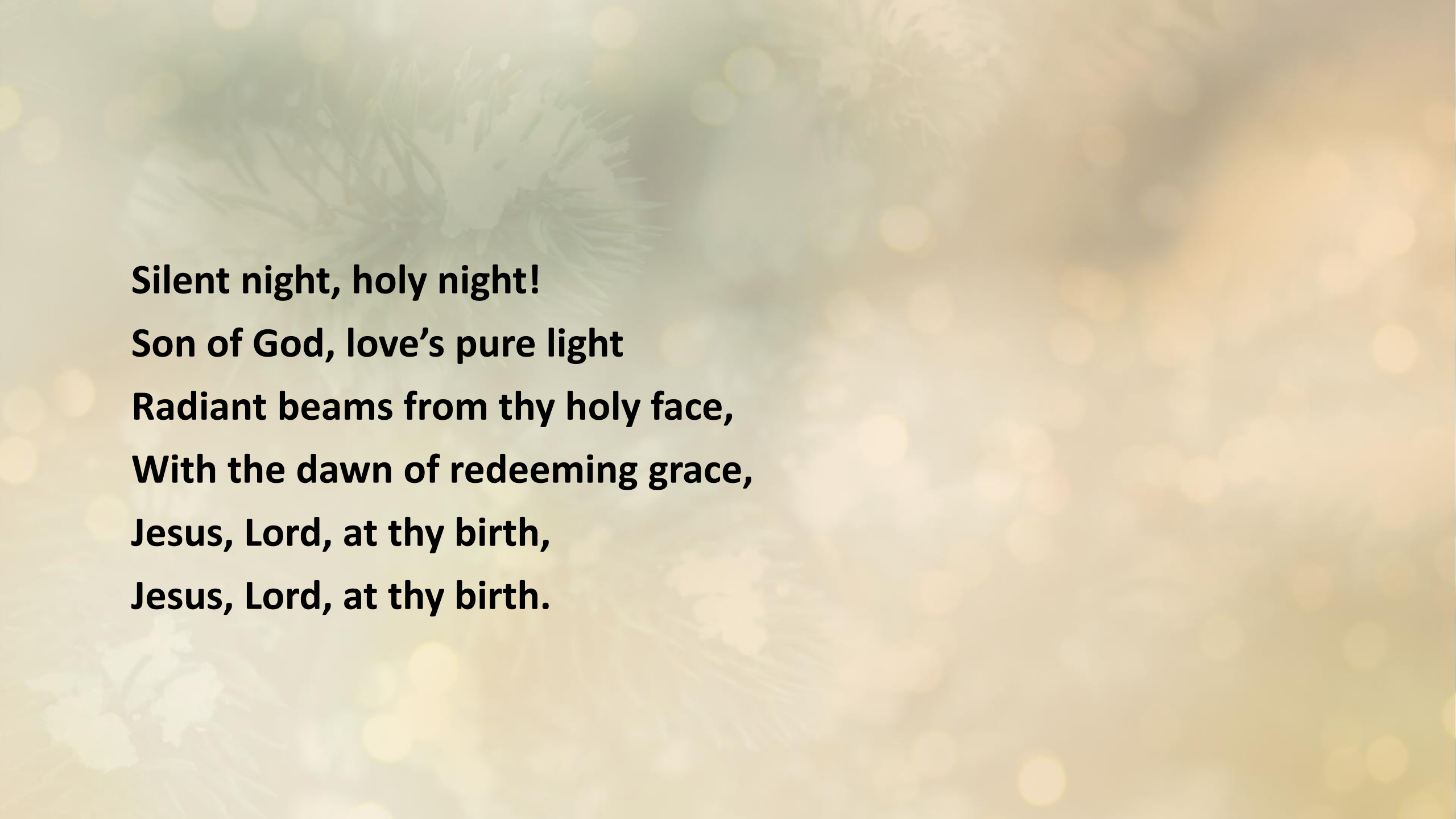
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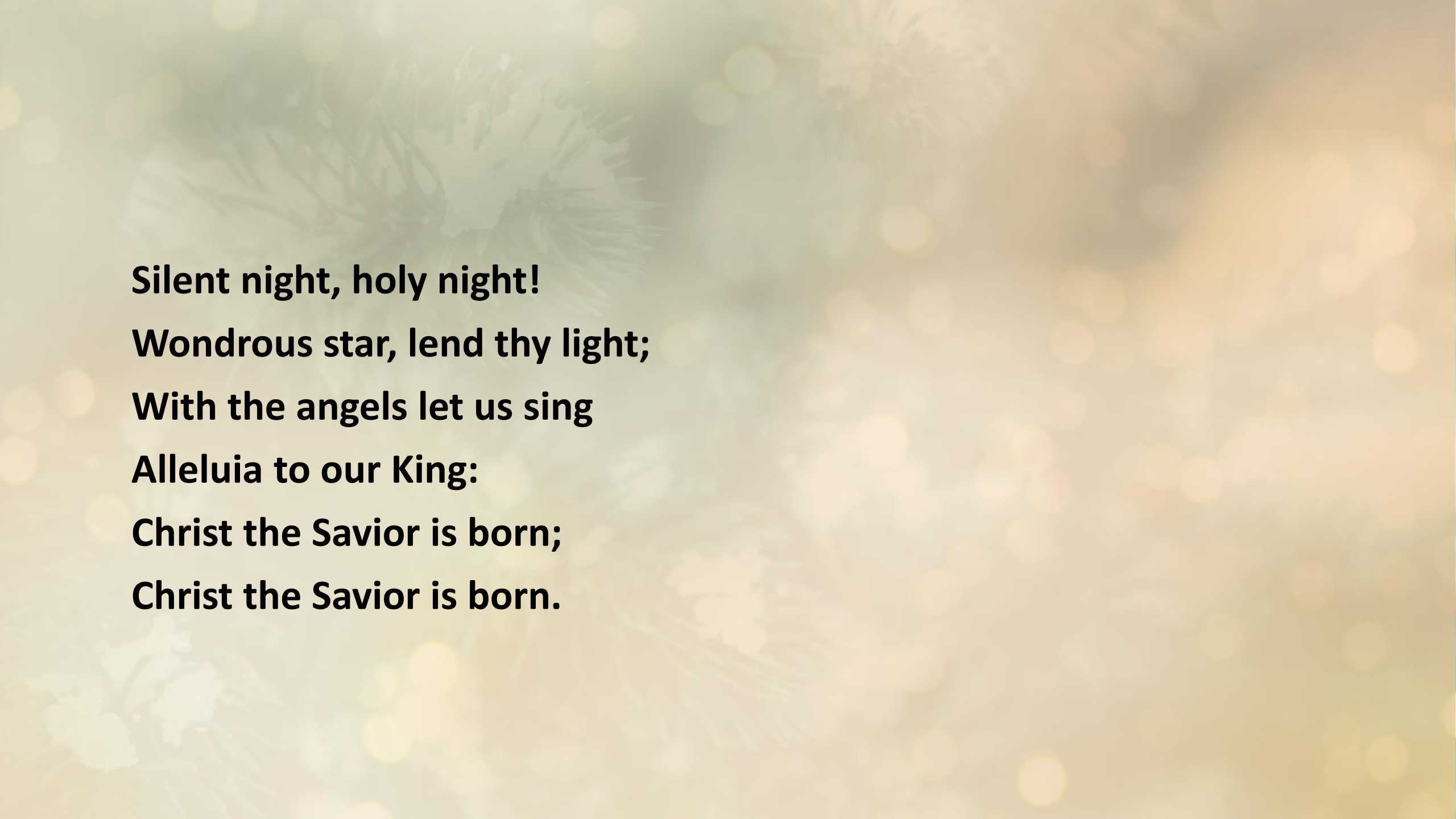
**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**



**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia:
Christ, the Savior, is born;
Christ, the Savior, 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.**



**Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.**

RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION

(based on John 1:1-14)

ONE: Before all time and being, before the light and darkness was the God of creation

MANY: – the Alpha

ONE: before all worlds

MANY: – and Omega

ONE: once again in the timelessness of God, who for a brief moment

MANY: – in this place, this time

ONE: lived among us,

MANY: The Word and the work of God uniting again and always. The Creator and the Creation, the Word and the Work in one. The Christ. Emmanuel.

HYMN

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is 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 Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, 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
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

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

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: What is the spirit of Christmas? The Christmas spirit is that hope which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful

MANY: and announces in the face of any Herod the world can produce

ONE: and all the inn doors slammed in our faces

MANY: and all the dark nights of our souls

ONE: that with God all things still are possible,

MANY: that even now unto us a Child is born!

POSTLUDE

He is Born, the Divine Christ Child

Rocques

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is from “*The Gift of Joy: Isaiah 12*” posted on the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship website. <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/the-gift-of-joy-isaiah-12>

The **Advent Candle Lighting Prayer** is posted on SALT and use with permission. Advent Candle Lighting Litanies (saltproject.org)

The **Nativity** skit is adapted from “A Virtual Christmas Pageant” by Kirk Woodward and Martha Day. © 2020 Kirk Woodward and Martha Day. Free for use without royalty

The **Prayer for Christmas Eve** is written by Dr. Susan M. (Elli) Elliott December 24, 2004, 2005. Source: <http://ellielliott.webs.com/sermonsprayers.htm>

The **Affirmation** is written by Dan, and posted on Pastor Dan’s Grace Notes. <http://coslcgrace.blogspot.ca>

The **Benediction** is by Ann Weems from her volume, *Kneeling in Bethlehem* (p. 42). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

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