

Merry Christmas!



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John 1:1-5: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Come, thou Almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

In the beginning, God formed the heavens and the earth out of the void of the universe. He created the animals, the birds of the air and fish of the seas. After each day, God said that his creation was "Good." Then on the sixth day, God created man out of the dust of the earth with His own hands, in His own image, and God breathed life into Adam and Adam came to life. And everything God created was good, but when he created man, he saw His creation as "Very Good." Everything was perfect.

**All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.
All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.**

**The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.
All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.**

**He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.**

God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Then from one of Adam's ribs, God created Eve.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals that God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

God's perfect creation then turned into chaos. Adam and Eve made clothes for themselves to cover up their nakedness.

**There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave,
"Send the Light! send the Light!"
There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save,
send the Light! send the Light!**

**Send the Light! the blessed gospel Light;
Let it shine from shore to shore!
Send the Light! the blessed gospel Light:
Let it shine for evermore.**

Candle of Hope is lit

Don't be afraid. I am the candle of hope,
The flame of Hope should never go out from our life,
And with Hope each of us can have a life through Jesus Christ.

God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

And thus, Eve and all women, will have very severe childbearing pains and for Adam and all men, thorns and thistles will grow in the fields. And since we came from dust, we will return to dust.

Cain and Abel were born to Adam and Eve, but Cain ended up killing Abel - a result of the chaos that the devil had created. Wickedness spread throughout the world. While the early humans lived for hundreds of years, God was not happy with the progress of things. God said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal;

their days will be a hundred and twenty years." Things went from bad to worse and finally, God decided enough was enough and decided to wipe out mankind. However, he found favor with Noah. The ark was built and Noah's family was spared death. A rainbow was created afterwards, a promise from God that a giant flood will never occur again.

But after Noah's family repopulated the Earth, mankind returned to their bad ways.

God realized that something had to be done. The next mission was to fulfil the original promise made in Genesis as was reiterated in Isaiah 6:9: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Candle of Peace is lit

I am the candle of Peace.

The flame of Peace is a symbol that shines around the world.

It is our wish that world peace will one day come true.

The plan was beginning to unfold. As was reported in the book of Malachi, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

God had a sense of love for His children, despite everything the Children have done. The Israellites were always mumbling about something. If it wasn't the food, it was the water or the Egyptians coming after them. It almost sounds like us as we have a tenancy to mumble about everything. We should be so thankful that we have our lives, for John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Candle of Love is lit

I am the candle of Love.

Love is patient and love is kind. Love never ends.

The flame of Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things.

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

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. Mary then sang a song that expressed her joy, "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour."

Candle of Joy is lit

I am the candle of Joy.

The flame of joy reminds us of Mary's exciting news about her unborn son.

The spirit of Joy lifts our souls as we await the child of God!

**The whole world was lost In the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus! Like sunshine at noonday,
His glory shone in. The Light of the world is Jesus!**

Refrain:

**Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus!**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Christ Candle is lit

I am the Christ Candle.

My flame represents Jesus.

It is the center of our wreath, just as Jesus is the center of our lives.

Happy birthday, Jesus!

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

**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!**

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

**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 Hosts 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, Off-spring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail, the incarnate deity
Pleased as Man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the New-born king!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace, Hail, the Son of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His Wings.
Now 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!"**

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.

**O 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 to-night.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep. Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

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. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**The first Noel, the angels 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.**

The Message
The Offering
Special music by Julianna Kosel

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Let us Pray...

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen.

**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 World, the Savior reigns! Let men 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.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and
peace as you trust in him.