

Reader 1: The Coming of a savior was not unexpected. Isaiah and many other prophets spoke of it and wrote about God's promise to send a savior to his people, who would bring the people back to God. The Lord shall give you a sign, behold a virgin shall bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel.

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came unto her and said "Hail, thou who art highly favored. The Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women."

But Mary was troubled at this word. And the angel said "Fear not Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt bring forth a son and call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the son of the highest."

And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord! Be it unto me according to thy word."

And the angel departed from her.

### SILENT NIGHT

Reader 2: It came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, each in his own city.

Joseph went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be taxed with Mary his wife, who was with child.

While they were there, she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Reader 3: There were in the same country shepherds in the fields, 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 them, and they were afraid.

The angel said to them, "Fear not! For 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 savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you, you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men."

## HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Reader 2: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them, the shepherds said to one another “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

All the animals in Bethlehem could feel that there was something special happening. They too, went with haste and found the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

## AWAY IN A MANGER

Reader 1: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

When Herod heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said to him, “in Bethlehem of Judea! For thus it is written by the prophet.”

Then Herod, when he had secretly summoned the wise men, asked what time the star appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said “Go and search carefully for the young child and when you have found him bring me word again, that I may go and worship him also.

When they heard the king they departed, and the star which they saw in the east went before them until it stood over the spot where the young child was.

When the wise men saw the star, they rejoiced greatly.

## WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

Reader 3: And when they came into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him.

They presented him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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: The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.

## THERE IS JOY IN BETHLEHEM