

Merry Christmas



Luke 2

King James Bible



The Birth of Jesus

(Isaiah 7:10-16; Micah 5:1-6; Matthew 1:18-25)

1And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. **2**(*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) **3**And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. **4**And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) **5**To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. **6**And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. **7**And 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.

The Shepherds and Angels

8And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**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. **10**And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12**And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

As Long as There's a Christmas

The first few lights glow brightly,
as you watch the season start.
You know you should be happy,
but don't feel it in your heart.

Instead, you think about a time
when someone laughed with you,
and the love you shared then filled your soul.
But too soon it was through.

So Christmas comes with sadness,
and a yearning deep inside,
a thirst for love and peace and hope
that will not be denied.

Late one night you hear a voice,
so soft, and without blame,
and then, surprised, you realize,
He's calling you by name.

"I know your hurt and loneliness,
the heartache that you bear.
I listen and I cry with you
through every single prayer.

"I promised in the manger
and fulfilled it from the cross.
I built a home that's filled with love
for all those who are lost.

"So let me come and heal your heart
and give you rest within.
For my way is kind and gentle
and will bring you joy again."

His words still echo through the years,
a vow that He made true,
"As long as there's a Christmas,
I will be in love with you."

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God on this Christmas Day, we praise the newborn child, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We open our eyes to see the mystery of faith and we claim the promise of Emmanuel, "God with us."

We remember that Jesus was born in a manger, and walked as a humble suffering Savior.

Lord, help us to share the love of God with everyone we encounter, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and stand against injustice and oppression.

We pray for the ending of war and for peace in the world.

We thank you for our family and friends, and for the many blessings, we have received.

We rejoice today with the best gifts of hope, peace, joy and the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

