

A Christmas tree stands in a snowy landscape at night, illuminated with warm, golden lights. The tree is the central focus, with its lights creating a bright glow. The background shows a dark, snowy field with other trees in the distance, all under a dark night sky.

This Is Christmas

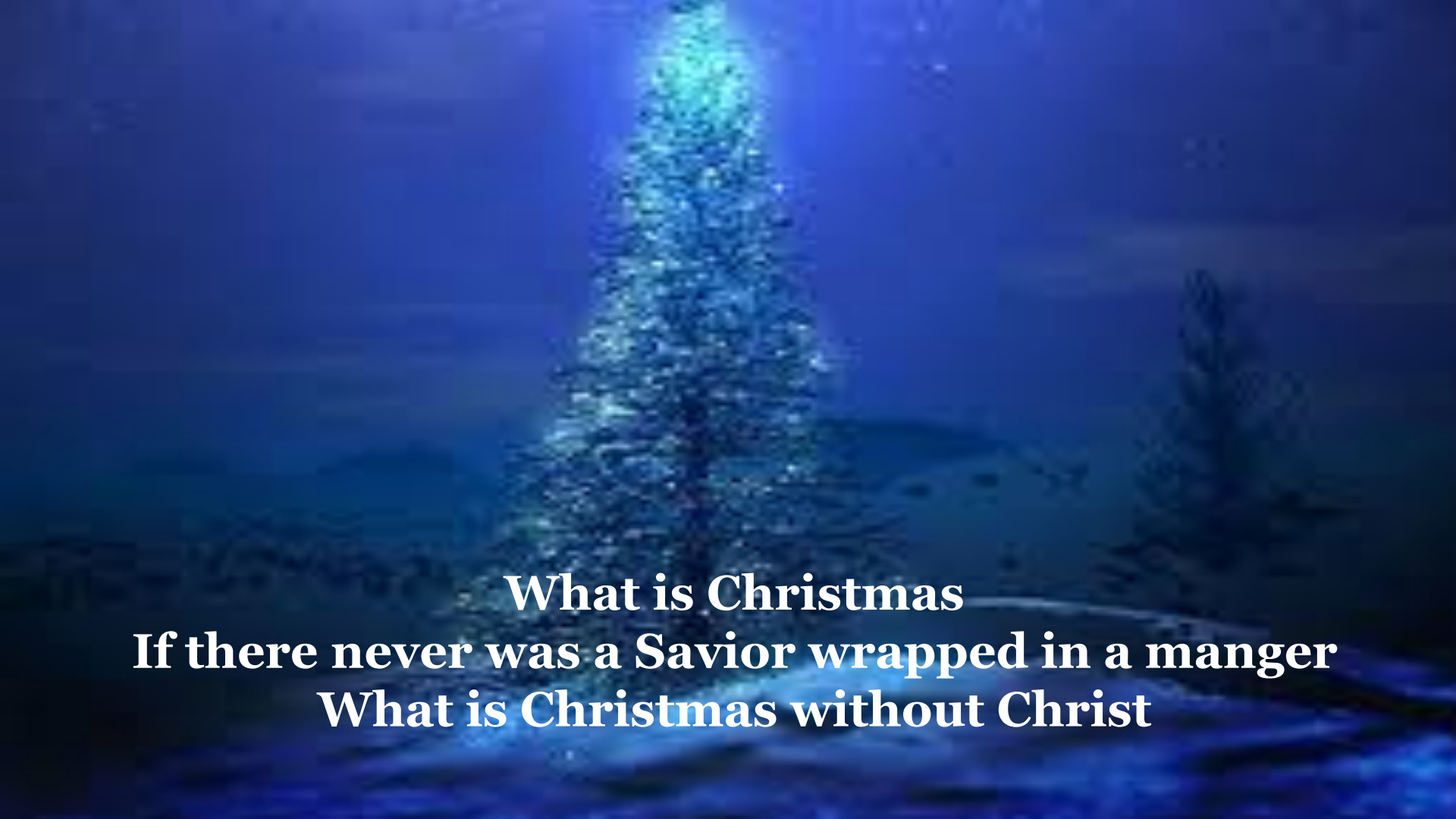
**Do you find it hard to sleep tonight
Resting by the Christmas lights
Could there be something you forgot**

A photograph of a Christmas tree in a snowy landscape at night. The tree is the central focus, illuminated with warm, golden lights that create a soft glow. The background is a dark, snowy field with other trees visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is serene and festive.

**Beyond the bows and mistletoe
The tree with presents wrapped below
There's more to this than you had ever thought**



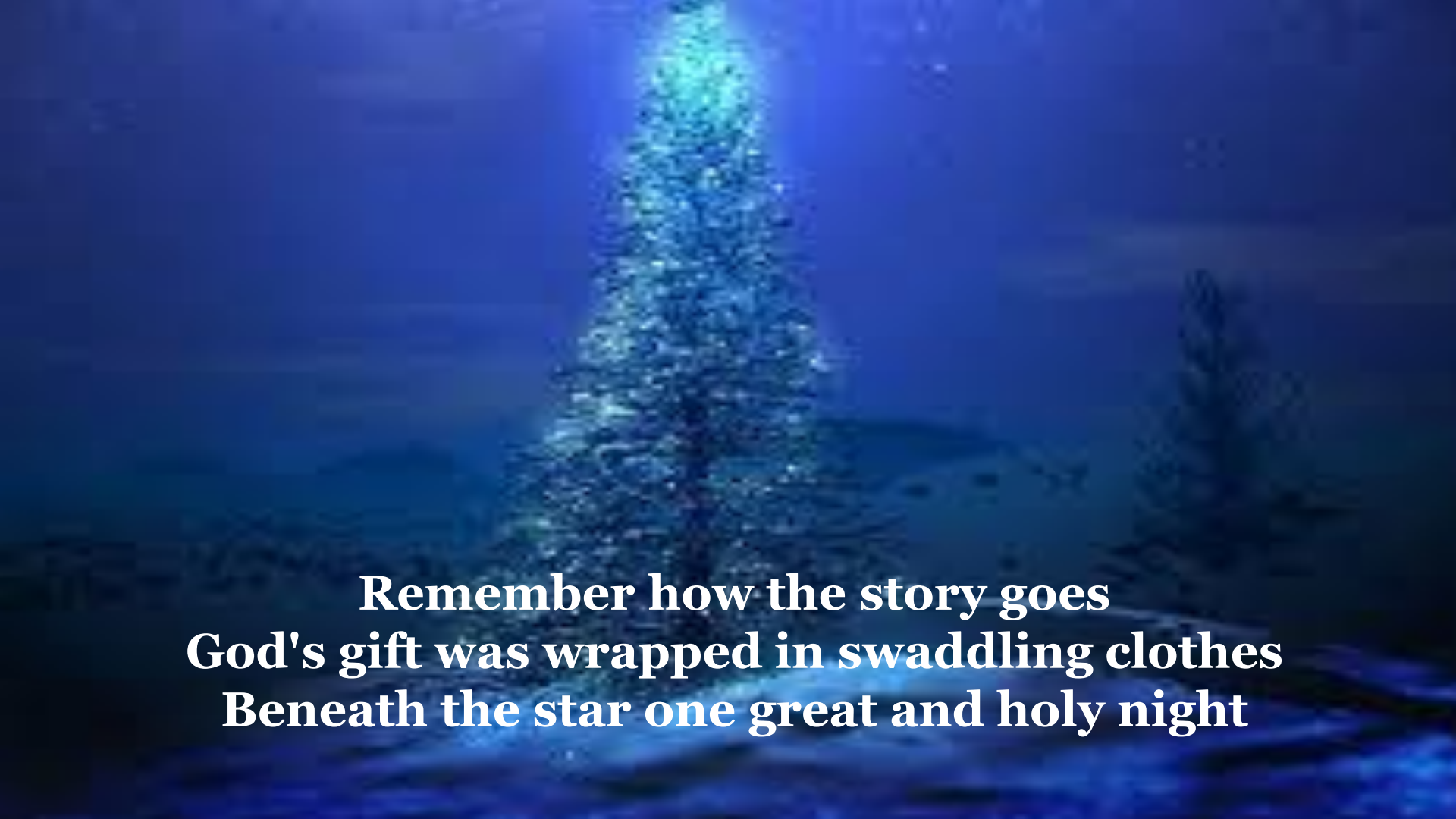
Have we lost the reason that we celebrate each year




What is Christmas

If there never was a Savior wrapped in a manger

What is Christmas without Christ

A Christmas tree stands in a snowy landscape at night. The tree is illuminated by a bright, glowing light source, possibly a star or a light fixture, which creates a strong lens flare and illuminates the surrounding snow. The background is dark, with a few other trees visible in the distance. The overall scene is festive and serene.

**Remember how the story goes
God's gift was wrapped in swaddling clothes
Beneath the star one great and holy night**

A photograph of a Christmas tree in a snowy landscape at night. The tree is illuminated with warm white lights, and the surrounding area is covered in snow under a dark sky. The text is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

**The shepherds heard the angels sing
The wise men brought an offering
Peace on earth began in Bethlehem**



Have we lost the reason that we celebrate each year

A Christmas tree is the central focus, illuminated with vibrant blue lights that create a soft glow. The background is a deep, dark blue, suggesting a night sky or a snowy landscape. The overall mood is serene and festive.

What is Christmas

If there never was a Savior wrapped in a manger

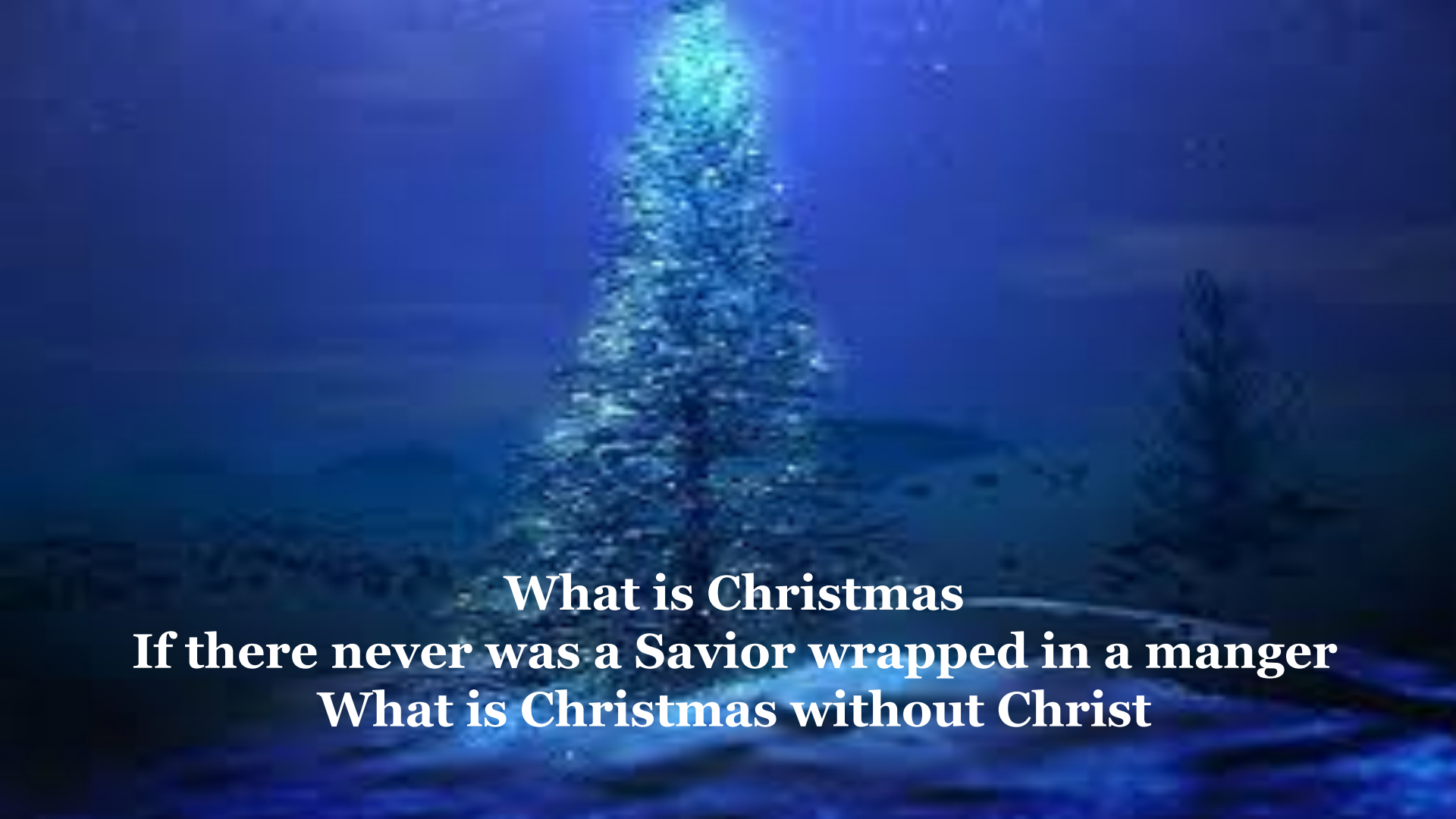
What is Christmas

If the angels never sang glory to the new born King

What is Christmas without Christ

A Christmas tree stands in a snowy landscape at night, illuminated with blue and white lights. The tree is the central focus, with a bright blue glow emanating from its top. The surrounding snow and trees are dimly lit, creating a serene winter scene.

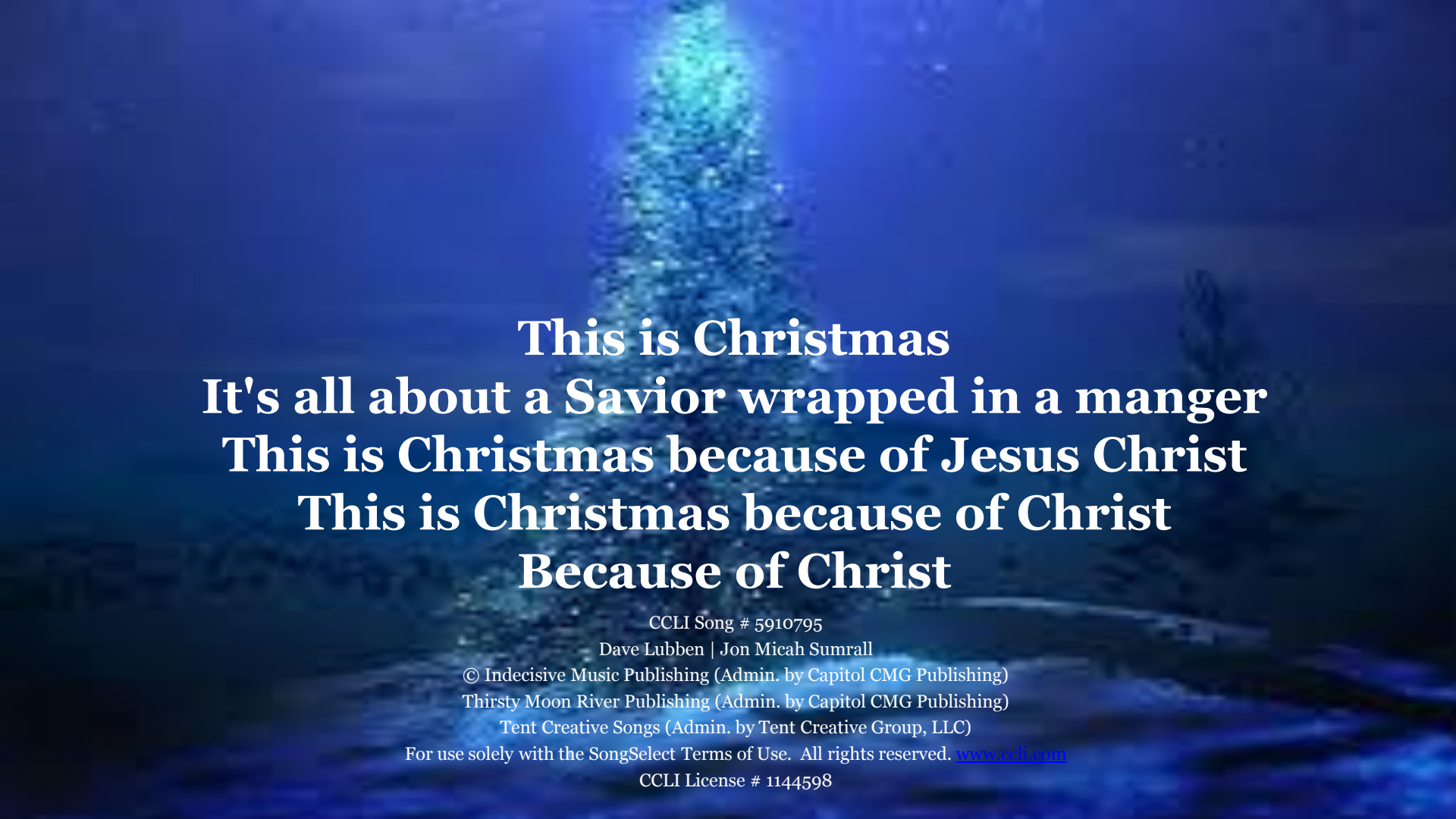
**There'd be no
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo**



What is Christmas

If there never was a Savior wrapped in a manger

What is Christmas without Christ



**This is Christmas
It's all about a Savior wrapped in a manger
This is Christmas because of Jesus Christ
This is Christmas because of Christ
Because of Christ**

CCLI Song # 5910795

Dave Lubben | Jon Micah Sumrall

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Special Music

“Jesus Loves Me”

Little Ringers



He Made A Way In A Manger



**Longing for a Savior
A hopeless world would wait
Sin demanded justice
At a price we could not pay**



**But God displayed His mercy
The greatest gift of love
When we could not reach heaven
Heaven came to us**



**He made a way in a manger
A way through the Son
Messiah the Promised
Before time had begun**



**For God so loved this world
Though He knew what love would cost
He made a way in a manger
To make a way to the cross**



**In Bethlehem a stable
Became a throne of grace
As God Himself our Savior
Drew near to take our place**



**His mother smiled in wonder
As shepherds stood in awe
The Sacrifice of Heaven
Lay sleeping in the straw**



**He made a way in a manger
A way through the Son
Messiah the Promised
Before time had begun**



**For God so loved this world
Though He knew what love would cost
He made a way in a manger
To make a way to the cross**



**He is the life Who died our death
The precious Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head**



**Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head**



**The stars in the sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay**



**He made a way in a manger
A way through the Son
Messiah the Promised
Before time had begun**



**For God so loved this world
Though He knew what love would cost
He made a way in a manger
To make a way to the cross**

CCLI Song #4354321

Lee Black Steve Merkel

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Welcome to Community of the Cross Lutheran Church



“Touching Lives with the Love of God”



**COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

- 1) Nurture the community*** within our congregation
- 2) Encourage the community*** within our neighborhood
- 3) Transform the various communities*** where our members live and work with the love of God

Advent Litany

P: Advent is marked by a spirit of joy and celebration.

C: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

P: Advent is a time to open our eyes to many blessings.

C: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Advent Litany

P: Advent is a time to appreciate the bonds of human love.

C: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

P: Advent is a time to remember the promises of God.

C: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.



*Lighting the
Advent Wreath*

Call to Worship / Invocation

P: We worship in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

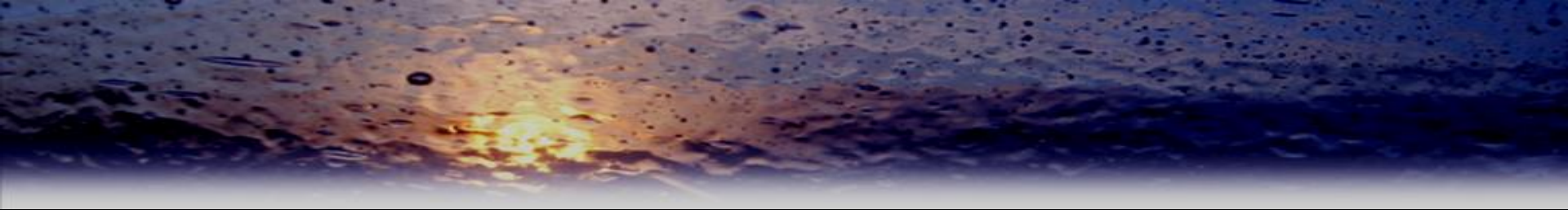
Confession and Forgiveness

P: God of the Ages,

C: We confess that we separate ourselves from you by what we think, say, and do. We confess that much of our life is backward. We use people and love things. We desperately try to buy love which is not for sale. We look good yet feel lonely. We talk about the weather and avoid the things that really matter. We say we love you, God, but our actions betray us.

Confession and Forgiveness

We say we love each other, but we step on one another. God, allow us to be more like children so we can say what we mean, give love completely, and trust you every day.



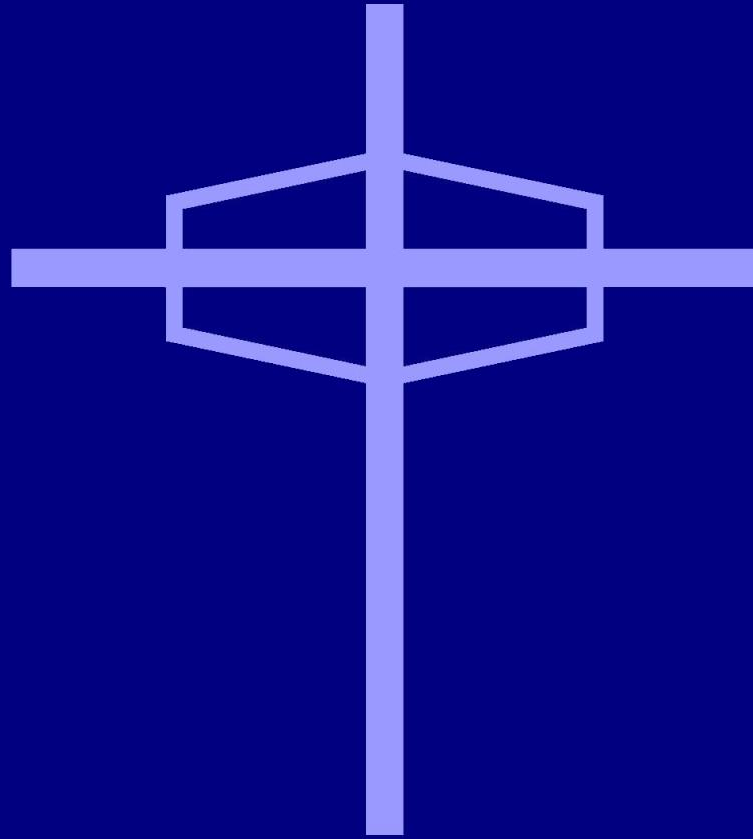
P: People of God, you are forgiven! The good news of the gospel is Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus lived among us, died on a cross for you, and rose again so we might live for today and all eternity. Your sin is forgiven and the separation between you and God has been closed forever. By the power of God we can live this new life as children of a loving Creator.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Children's Sermon

Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,

Yes, Jesus loves me,

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.



Children's Sermon

Presenter: Terry Peterson



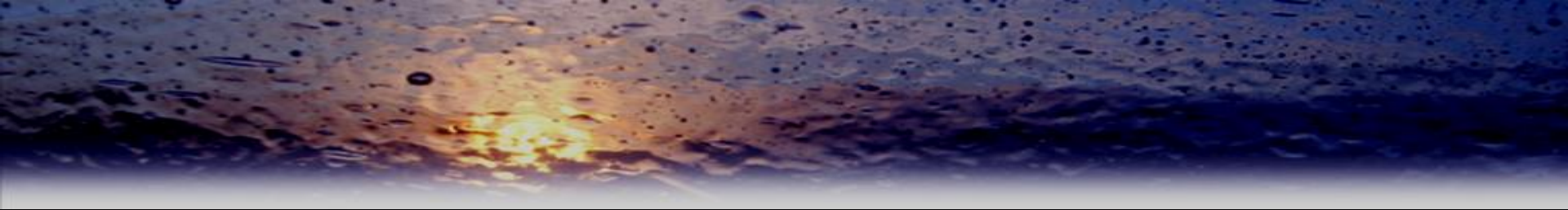


First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20



Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.



I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.



L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

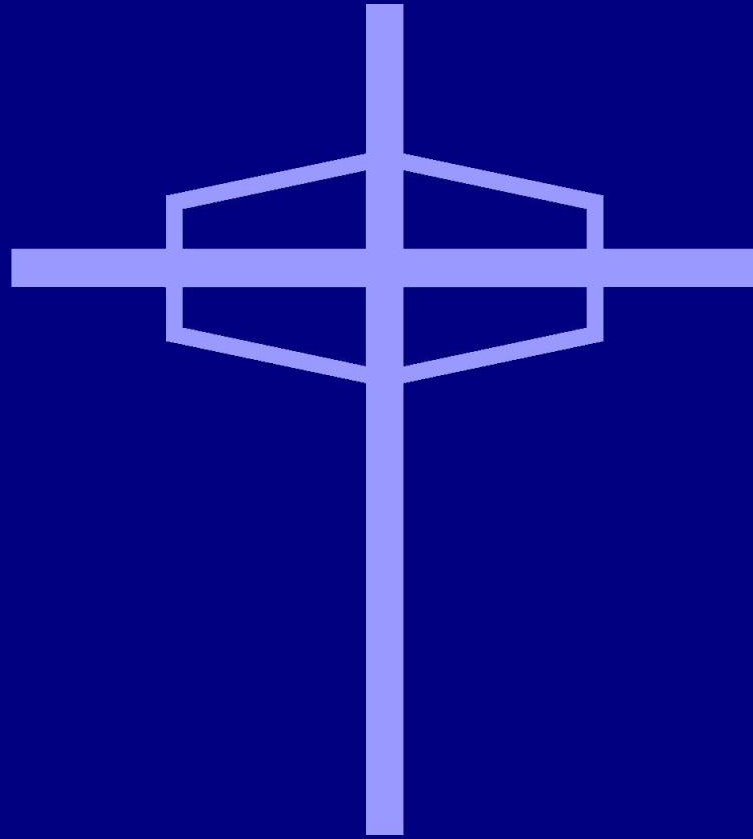


Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

**Be still and know that He is God
Be still and know that He is Holy
Be still, oh, restless soul of mine
Bow before the Prince of Peace
Let the noise and clamor cease
Be still**



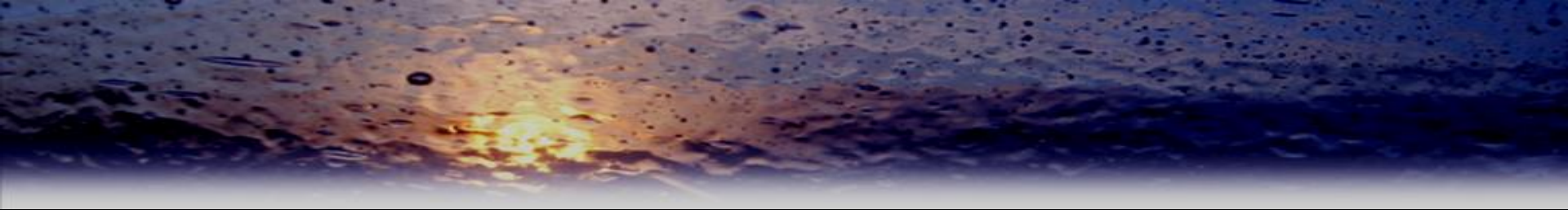
Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd chapter.

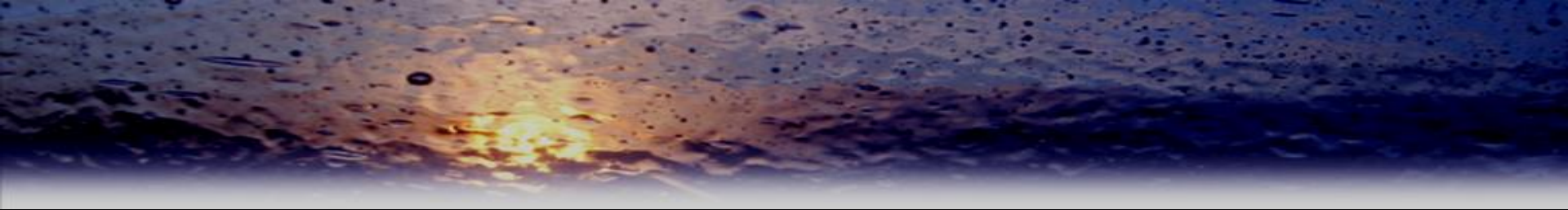
C: Glory to you, O Lord.



John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”



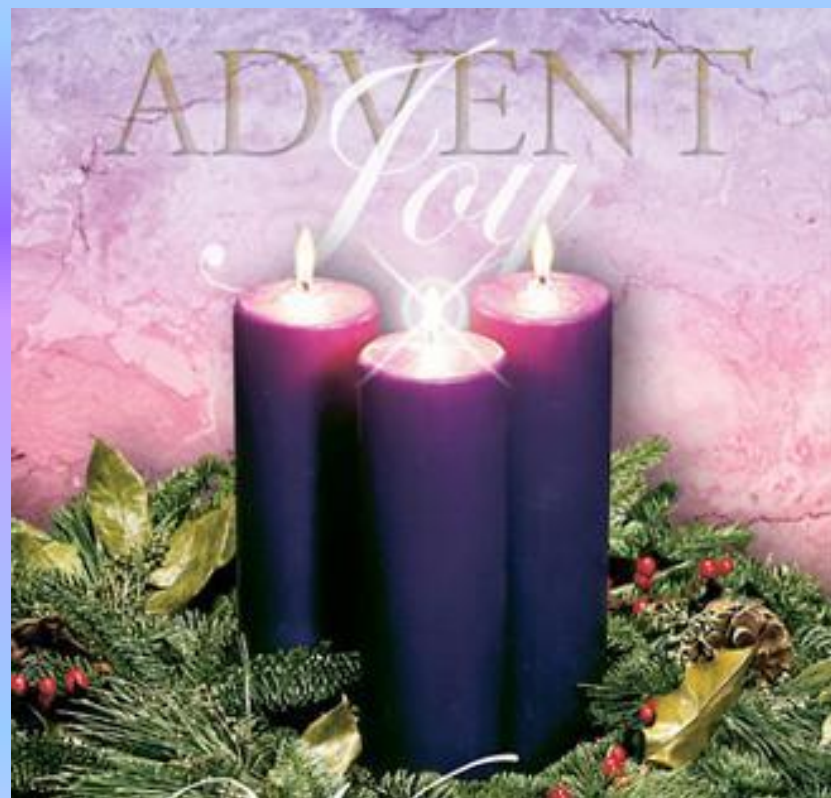
In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

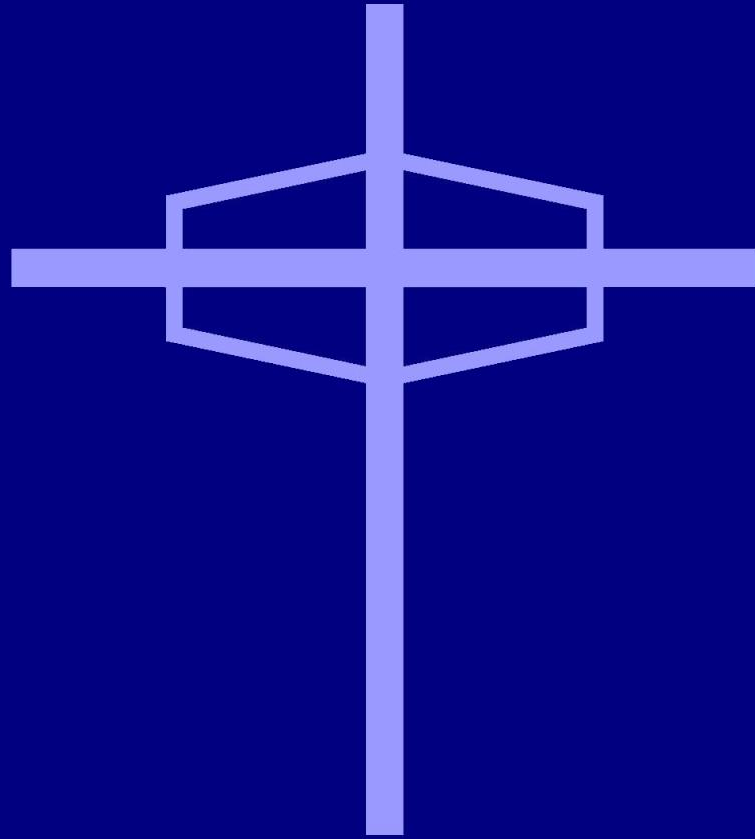


As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.









Offering


**Over the skies of Bethlehem
Appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth
Travelled from afar
Hoping to find the Child from heaven
Falling on their knees they bowed
Before the humble Prince of Peace**




**I bring an offering
Of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves
The praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive
The honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You**



**The sun cannot compare
To the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare
To stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood
And it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come**



**I bring an offering
Of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves
The praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive
The honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You**



**I bring an offering
Of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves
The praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive
The honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You**



**O Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You**

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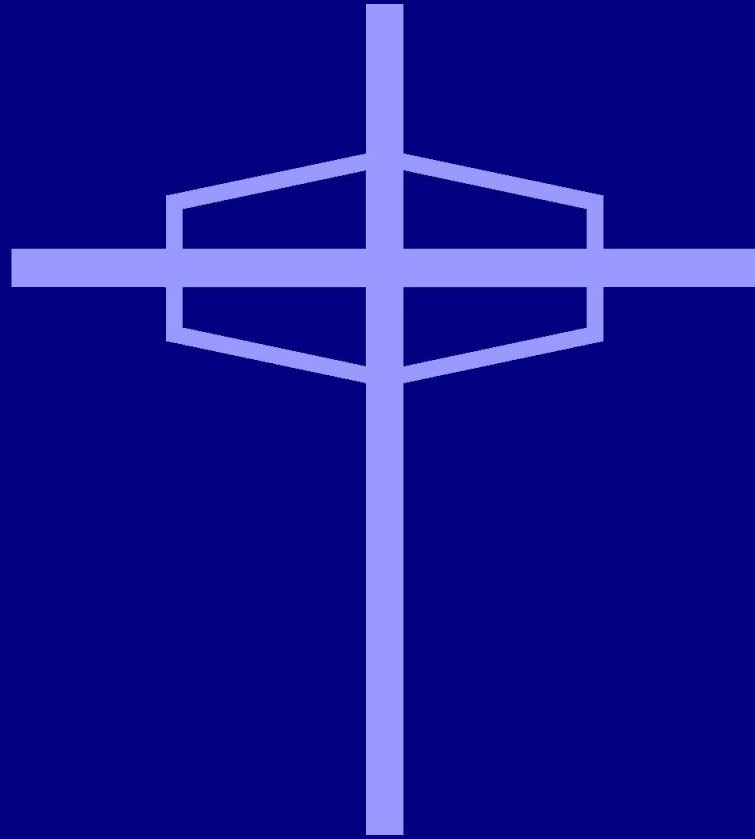
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Paul Baloche

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Prayers

P: Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.



Words of Institution



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples to eat, saying: “This is my body given for you.

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

Words of Institution



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin.

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**



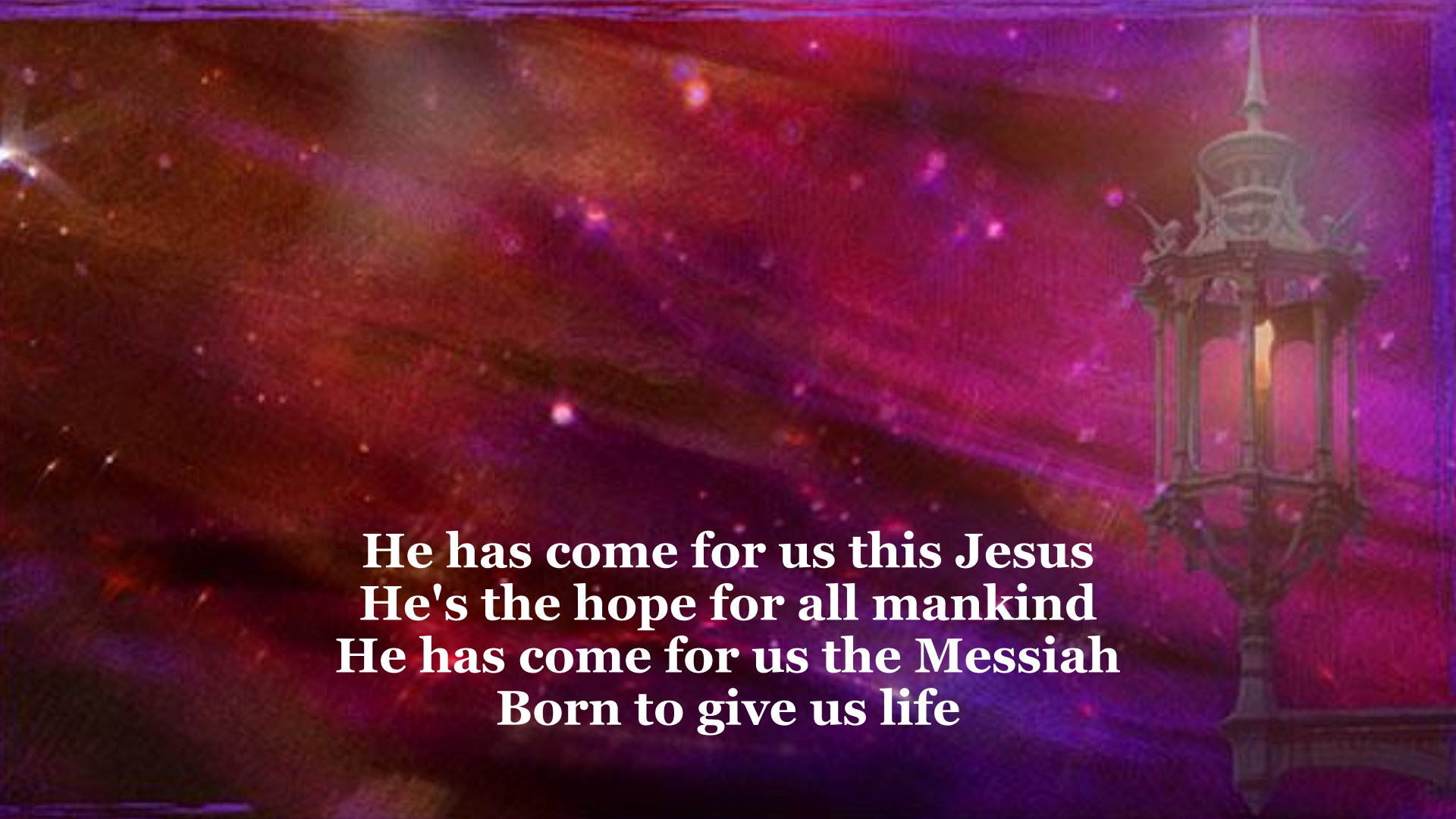


**He Has Come For Us
(God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)**

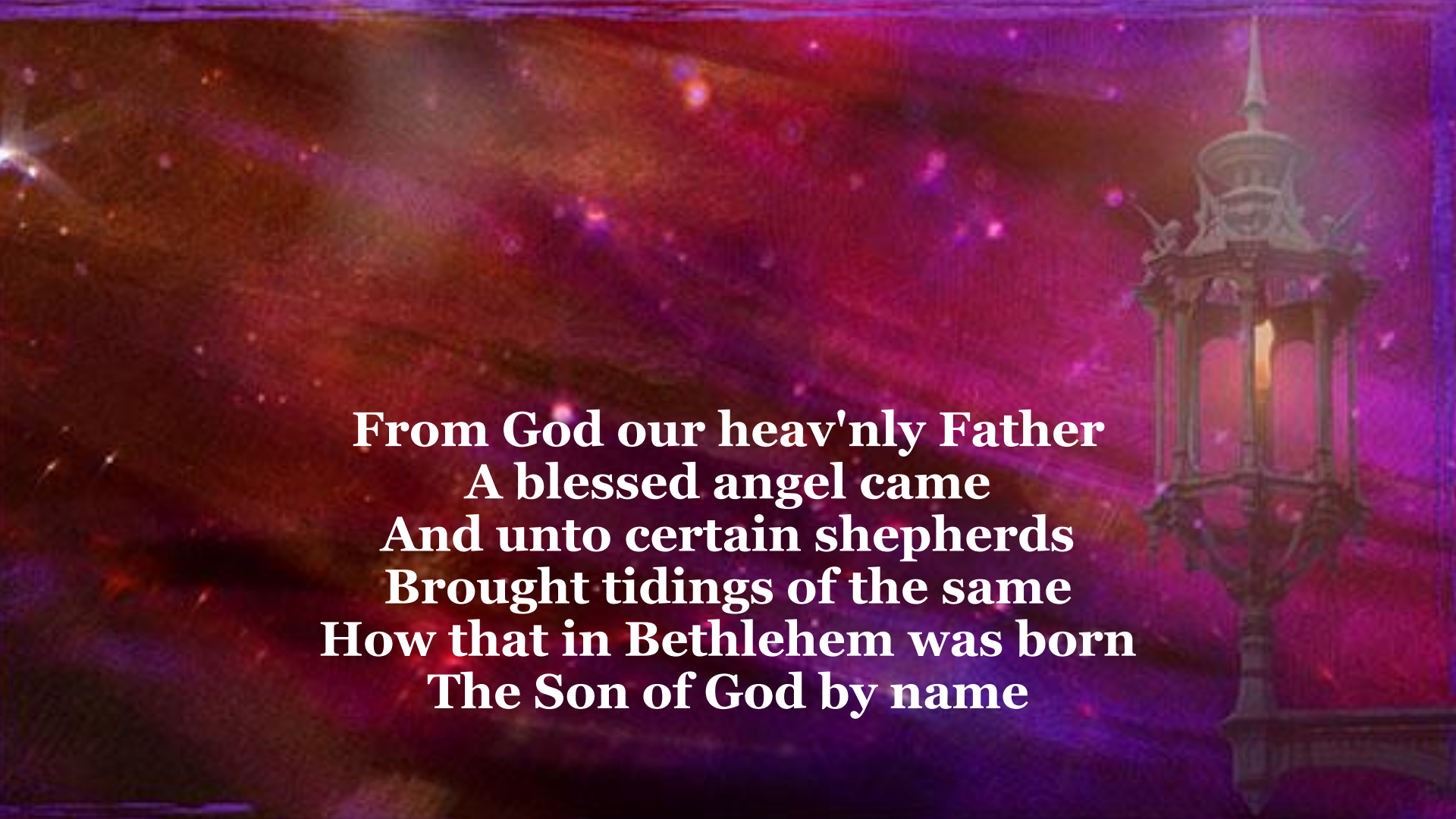
**God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray**

A decorative lantern with a pointed top and ornate metalwork is positioned on the right side of the image. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored field of stars and nebulae in shades of purple, red, and blue. The lantern has a warm, yellowish glow emanating from its central opening.

O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy



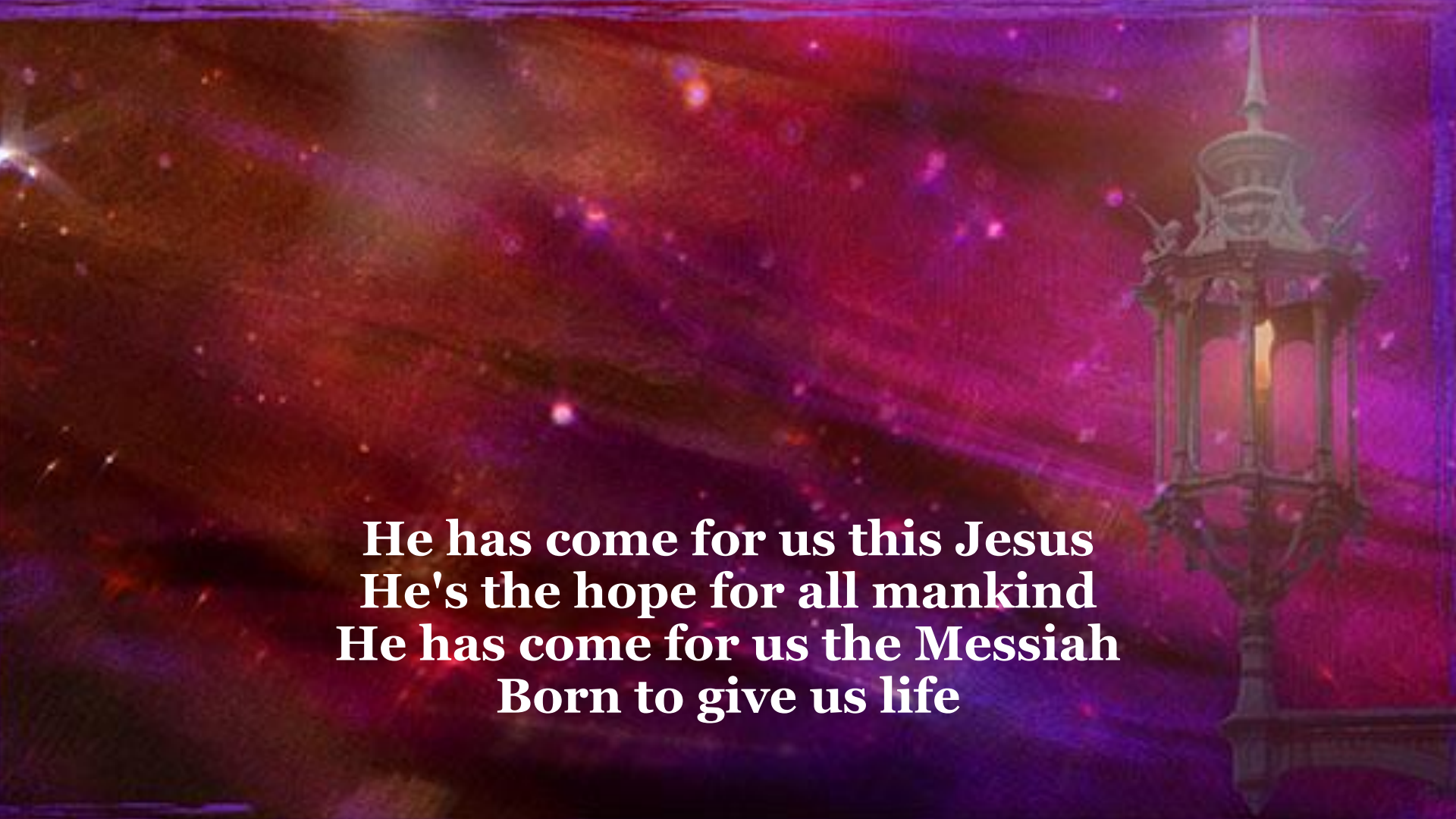
**He has come for us this Jesus
He's the hope for all mankind
He has come for us the Messiah
Born to give us life**



**From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name**

A decorative lantern with a pointed top and ornate metalwork is positioned on the right side of the image. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored field of stars and nebulae in shades of purple, red, and blue. The lantern has a warm, yellowish glow emanating from its central opening.

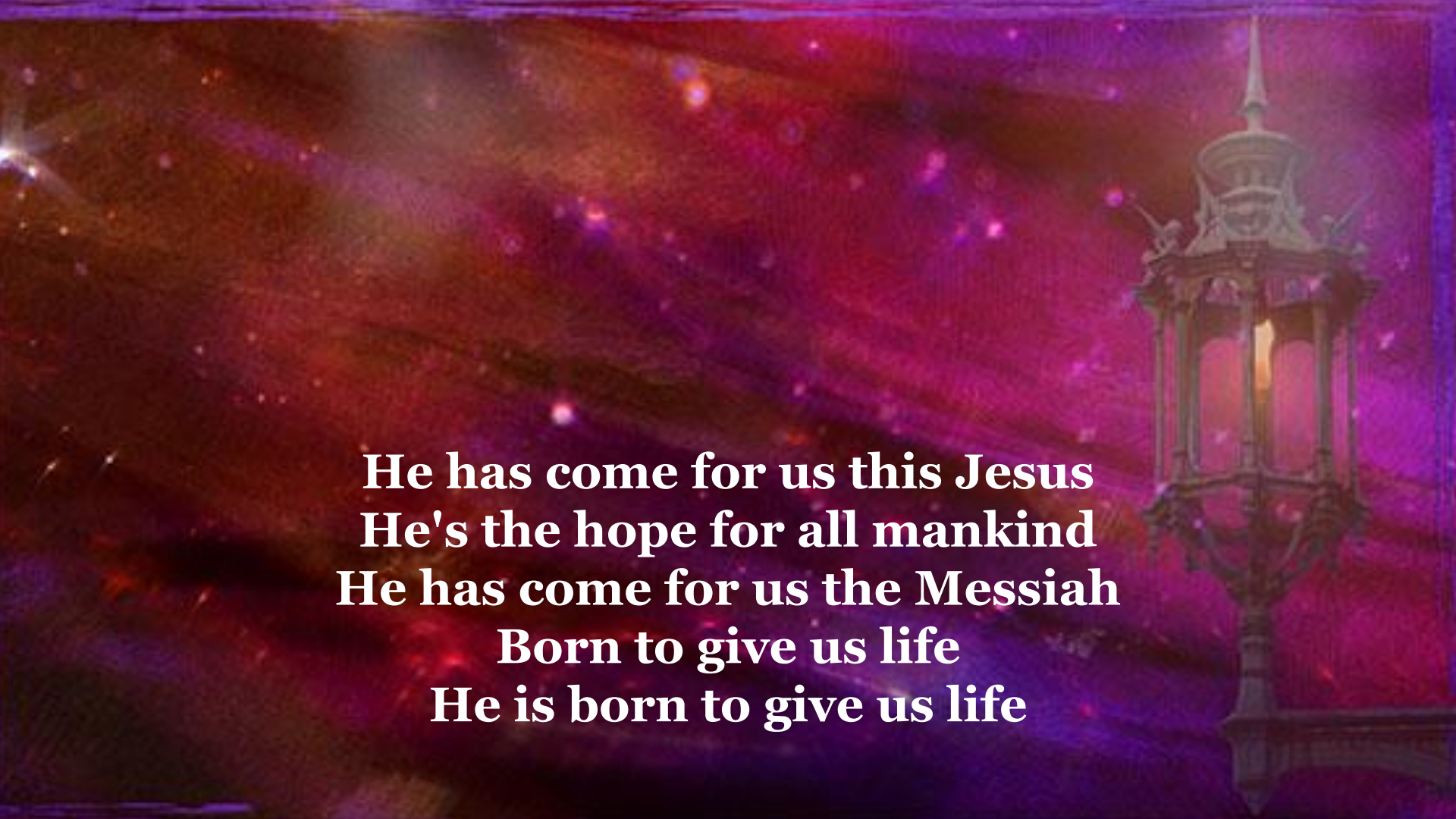
O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy



**He has come for us this Jesus
He's the hope for all mankind
He has come for us the Messiah
Born to give us life**



**All the angels sing hallelujah
Jesus Christ is born
All the children sing hallelujah
He is Christ the Lord**



**He has come for us this Jesus
He's the hope for all mankind
He has come for us the Messiah
Born to give us life
He is born to give us life**



**Angels sing hallelujah
Jesus Christ is Lord
All the children sing hallelujah
He is Christ the Lord**

CCLI Song # 5683022

Jason Ingram | Meredith Andrews

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Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Blessing / Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

We are all called to be ministers - (CCLC Mission Statement)

Welcomed by the love of Jesus Christ,

Nurtured in faith by the Holy Spirit,

Sent to share God's promises with others.



Give This Christmas Away

**What if I told you?
You have the power
To give someone hope
Beyond their wildest dreams**



**What if I told you it's right there in your hands?
In your hands**



**It's hard to imagine
How something so small
Can make all the difference
Tear down the tallest wall**



**What if December looked different this year?
What if we all just**



**Give this Christmas away
If there's love in your heart
Don't let it stay there**



**Give this Christmas away
And your life will be changed
By the gift you receive
When you give this Christmas away**



**It's feeding the hungry
It's serving the poor
It's telling the orphan
You're not forgotten anymore**



**It's doing what love does
Even when no one's watching you**



**Give this Christmas away
If there's love in your heart
Don't let it stay there**



**Give this Christmas away
And your life will be changed
By the gift you receive
When you give this Christmas away**



**For God so loved the world, He gave His only son
So we could be His hands, His feet, His love
His love**



**What if I told you?
You have the power
To give someone hope
Far beyond their wildest dreams**



**What if December looked different this year?
What if we all just**



**Give this Christmas away
If there's love in your heart
Don't let it stay there**



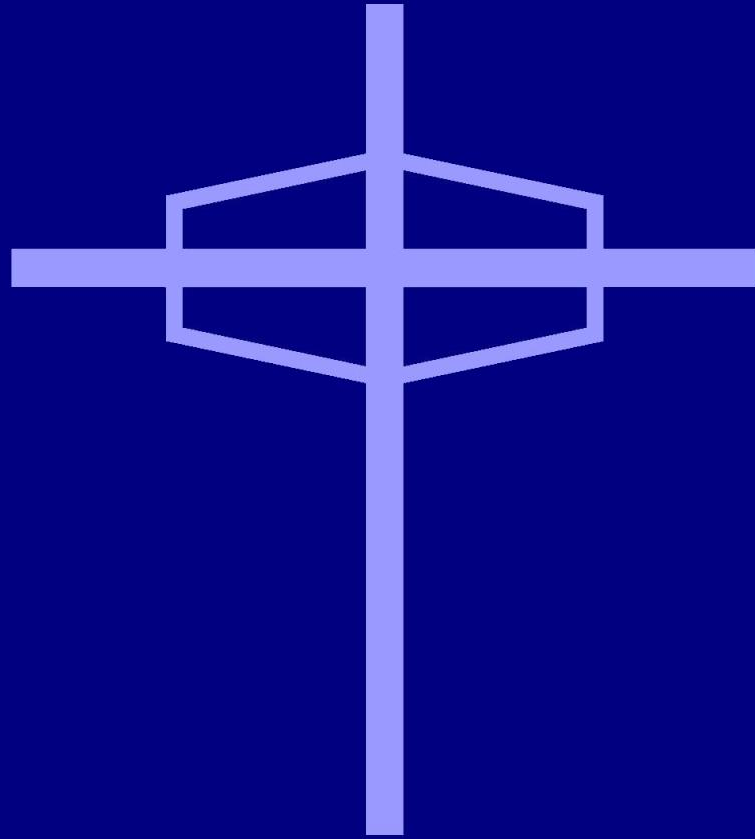
**Give this Christmas away
And your life will be changed
By the gift you receive
When you give this Christmas away**



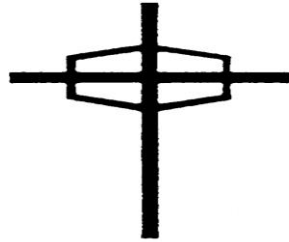
**Give this Christmas away
You have the power
Just give it away**



**Give it away, give it away
Give it away, give it away
(Give it away)
(Give Christmas away)
Give it away**



Touching Lives



with the

Love of God

P: Go in peace to touch lives with the love of God.

C: Thanks be to God.