

CHRISTMAS AT HOME

READ: THE CHRISTMAS STORY

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid;

for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (The Gospel of Luke chapter 2)



SING A SONG

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger no crib for a 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 baby awakes
But little lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me lord Jesus i ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, i pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear *God*, we pray for a good Christmas. That no powerful nation should tax the poor or uproot them. That no unmarried mother should be put away in disgrace. That no door will be shut on those who need to find it open. That shepherd and sheep and all of creation need not be afraid. That wise men and wise women might appear in all those places in the world where they are needed. That children may be protected from those who would abuse them. That this Christmas, we would know that Christ has come among us. Amen.

LIGHT YOUR CANDLE AND SING ANOTHER SONG

Silent Night

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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Now and always. Amen.

