

We light our first advent candle for peace.

We light our second advent candle for hope.

We light our third Advent candle for joy.

We light our fourth Advent candle for light.

(1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> red Candles are lit)

The prophet Isaiah declared:

‘The Lord himself will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel’.

What on earth are we waiting for?

**We are waiting for light**

Jesus is the Light of the World

**Come Lord Jesus**

**Come fill the earth with light.**



We won't have a Christmas this year, you say  
For the children have grown up and all gone  
away;

And the house is so lonely, so quiet and so bare  
We couldn't have a Christmas that they didn't  
share.

We won't have a Christmas this year, you sigh,  
For Christmas means things that money must  
buy.

Misfortunes and illness have robbed us we fear  
Of the things that we'd need to make Christmas  
this year.

We won't have a Christmas this year you weep,  
For a loved one is gone, and our grief is too  
deep;

It will be a long time before our hearts heal,  
And the spirit of Christmas again we can feel.

But if you lose Christmas when troubles befall,  
You never have really had Christmas at all.  
For once you have had it, it cannot depart  
When you learn that true Christmas is Christ in  
your heart.





This reading is from Matthew Chapter 1 verses 18-25

The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about.

Mary was engaged to marry Joseph.

But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby.

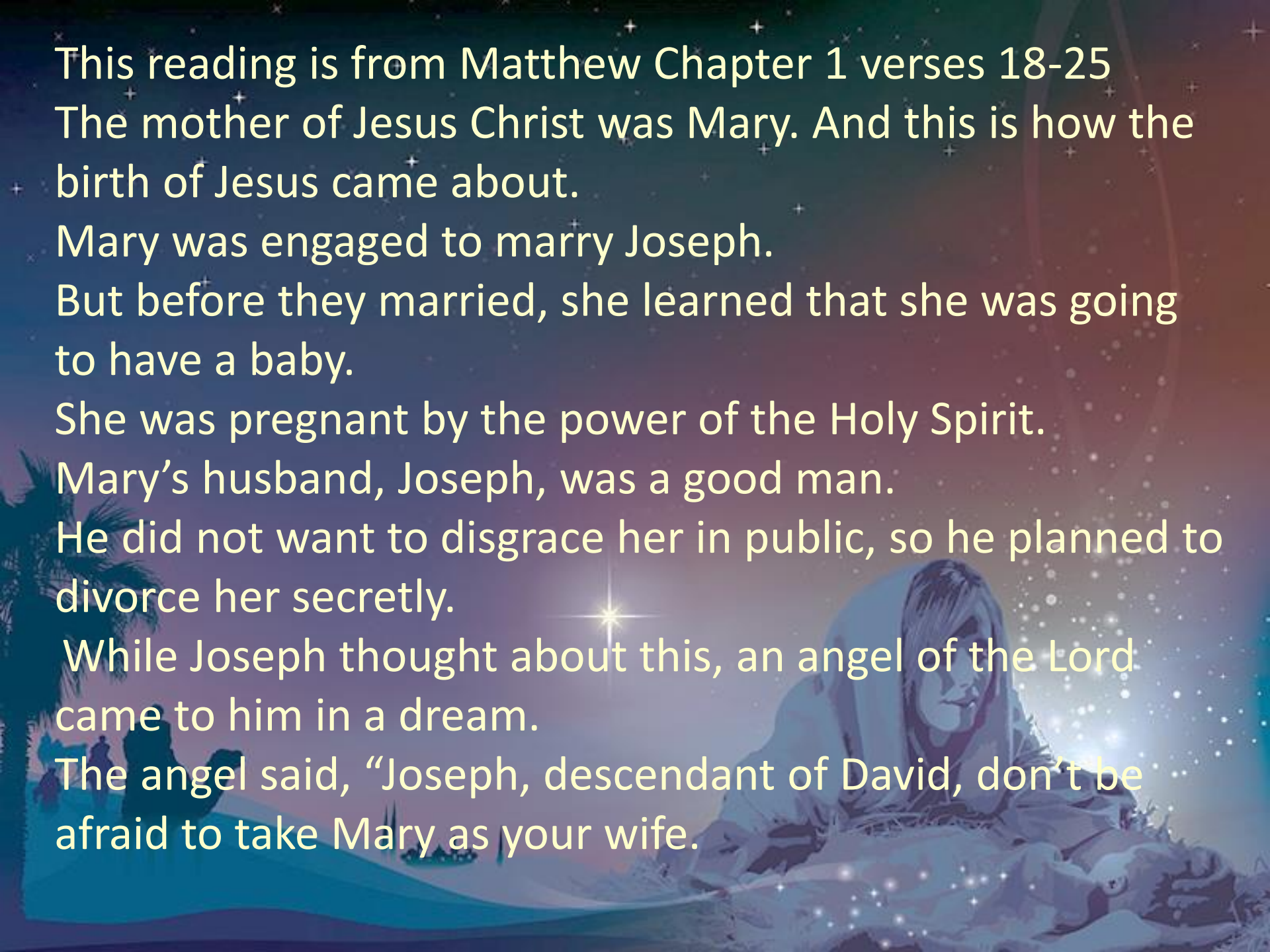
She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man.

He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream.

The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife.



The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit.  
She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus.  
Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet:

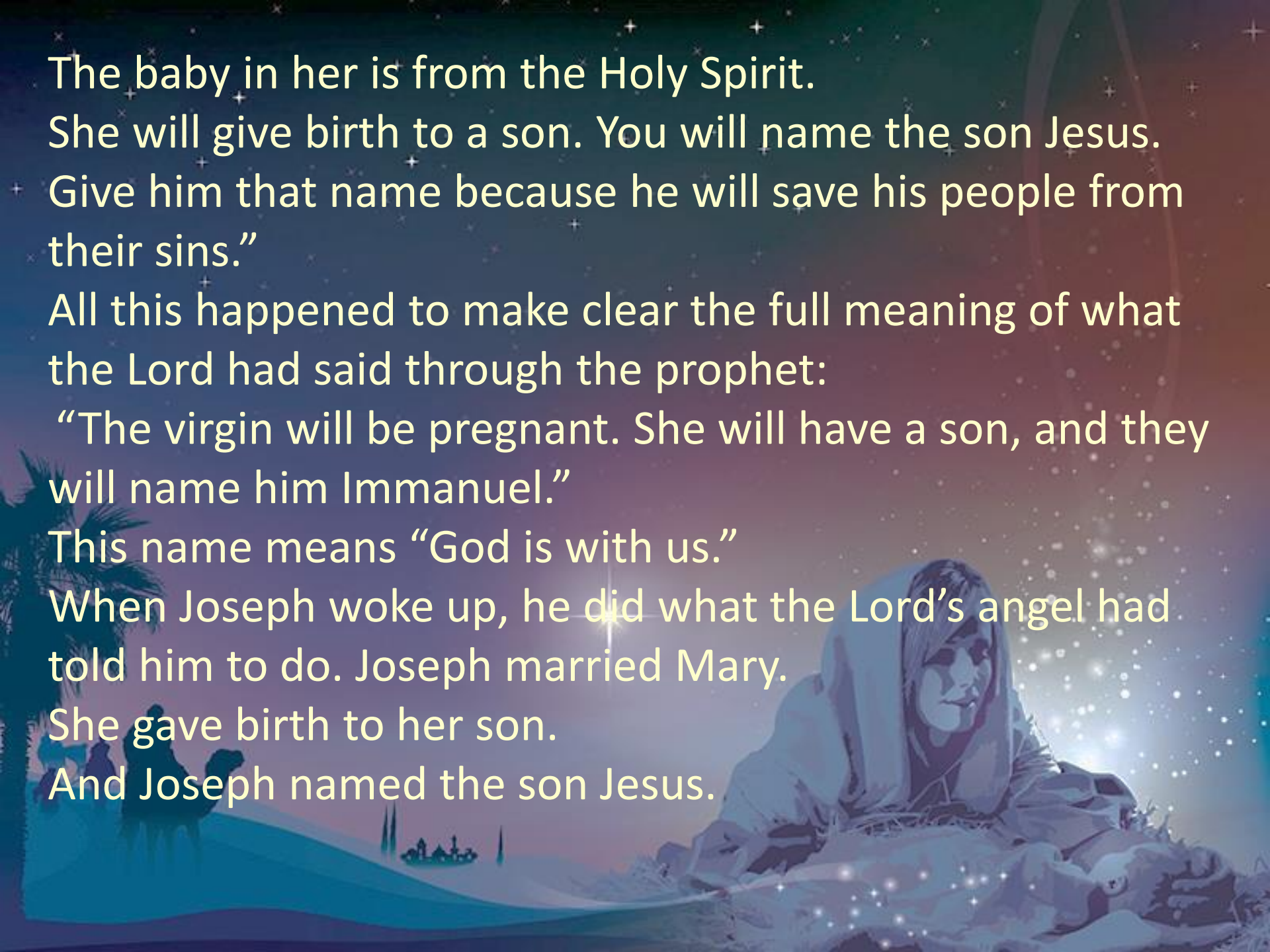
“The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel.”

This name means “God is with us.”

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord’s angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary.

She gave birth to her son.

And Joseph named the son Jesus.





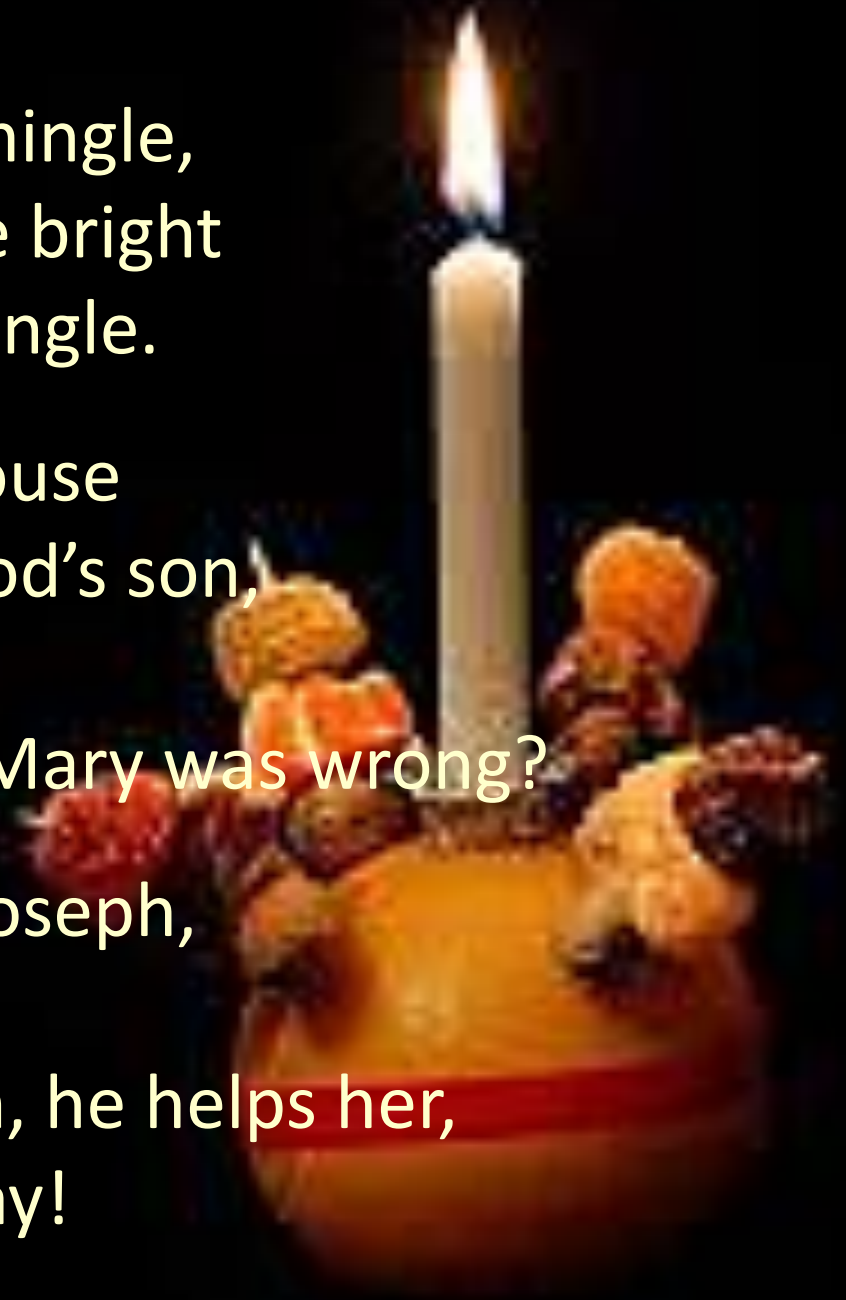


Candle, ribbon, orange, fruit  
Come together, merge and mingle,  
Jesus makes God's love shine bright  
That's the meaning of Christingle.

An angel comes to Mary's house  
And tells her she will bear God's son,  
Unmarried, pregnant,  
Did many people think that Mary was wrong?

And so the angel speaks to Joseph,  
Mary's worried fiancé.

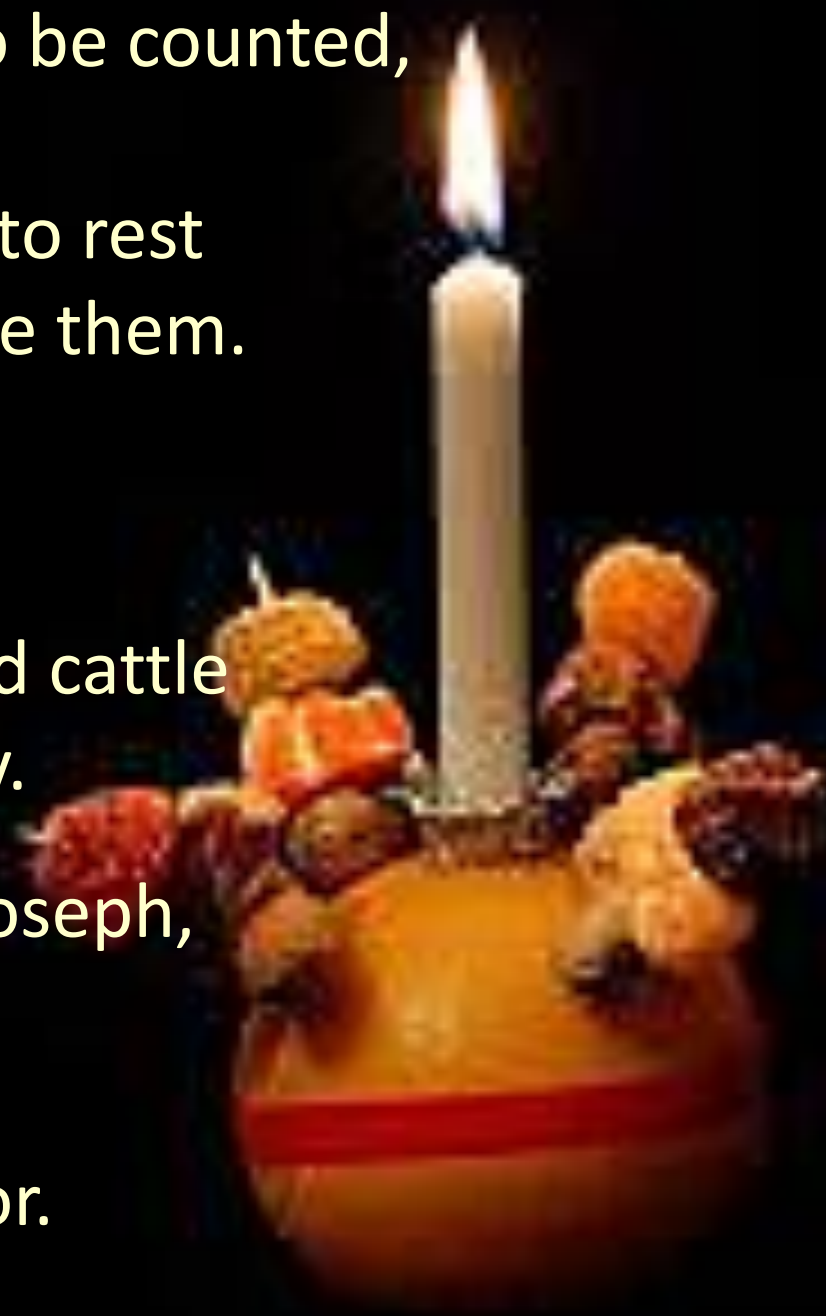
And when he hears the truth, he helps her,  
Marries her and saves the day!



And when the time comes to be counted,  
Off they go to Bethlehem.  
But there they find no place to rest  
And no one there to welcome them.

Until, at last, a kindly person  
Offers them a place to stay  
In the room where sheep and cattle  
Huddle warm among the hay.

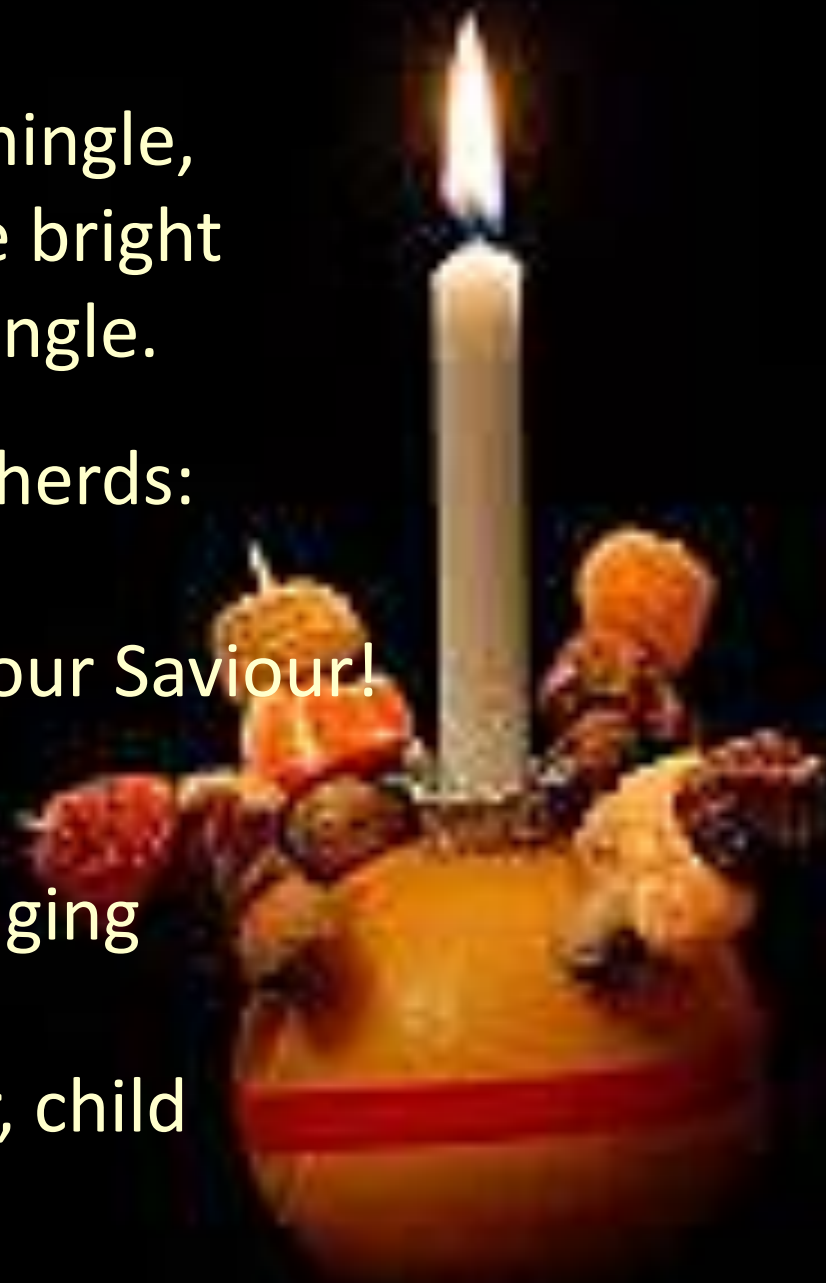
And just like Mary, just like Joseph,  
Many people are ignored,  
Overlooked, and looking for  
Acceptance and an open door.



Candle, ribbon, orange, fruit  
Come together, merge and mingle,  
Jesus makes God's love shine bright  
That's the meaning of Christingle.

An angel tells a flock of shepherds:  
Go to Bethlehem, for there  
A baby is born; he is Christ your Saviour!  
Then their praises fill the air.

So when the angels finish singing  
Off the shepherds go to see,  
And welcome mother, father, child  
Into their small community.



And then some wise men come to visit,  
Guided by a star above,  
Come to show the newborn king  
That he is treasured, valued, loved.

At his feet, they lay their presents –  
Frankincense and myrrh and gold.  
For God's love reaches to all nations  
Right around the whole wide world.

And just like Jesus, there are children  
Everywhere, in every land  
Who need to know that they are treasures,  
Valued, loved, held in God's hand.





Like ribbons wrapped around the world,  
God through Jesus holds us tight.  
And every sweet thing that God made  
Is saved from darkness by his Light.

Candle, ribbon, orange, fruit  
Come together, merge and mingle,  
Jesus makes God's love shine bright  
That's the meaning of Christingle.





The orange reminds us that we give thanks to God for the world he made.

What wonderful places in the world, in this country, or in this area do you like?

The red ribbon reminds us to give thanks for the love of Jesus, who gave everything for all of us.

Who do you love, and who is special to you?

The four cocktail sticks and the fruit/sweets remind us to give thanks for the four seasons, for food, and for all the good things God gives us.

What are your favourite foods?

The candle reminds us to give thanks for the light of Jesus, who brings joy, happiness and hope to the world and all people.

What things make you full of joy?



**Dear God**

**Be the flame to light our way through the dark times.**

**Be the flame to warm our spirits through the cold times.**

**Be the flame to cheer our hearts through the sad times.**

**Be the flame to spark and sing through the silent times.**

**Dear God, may Jesus be with us all this day and every day, our light and our salvation. Amen.**





Jesus, as we prepare for Christmas and we remember your birth:

**Shine in the world, and shine in me!**

Jesus, as we think of your light that shines everywhere:

**Shine in the world, and shine in me!**

Jesus, as we think of people who need light to brighten their lives:

**Shine in the world, and shine in me!**

Jesus, as we think of all the good things we have been given:

**Shine in the world, and shine in me!**

**Amen!**

