



John Came Preaching, Bearing Witness

John came preaching, bearing witness,
Pointing to God's only Son.

He proclaimed the truth with boldness:
"Now believe! God's light has come!"

Yet he would not be the focus;
He proclaimed a greater One.



John Came Preaching, Bearing Witness

Thank you, God, for all your servants

Who proclaim your light each day.

Brave and bold, like John, they bless us,

Pointing us to Jesus' way.

They proclaim your kingdom's nearness

In the things they do and say.

John Came Preaching, Bearing Witness

May we live in that tradition;

Fill us with integrity.

Take away our vain ambition;

Keep us in humility.

Make us faithful in our mission

As we serve Christ joyfully.*



The Christmas Story

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Text from
KING JAMES
Version of the Bible

Advent Series: The Christmas Story According to Luke
Sermon: Magnificat **Lk. 1:39-55**



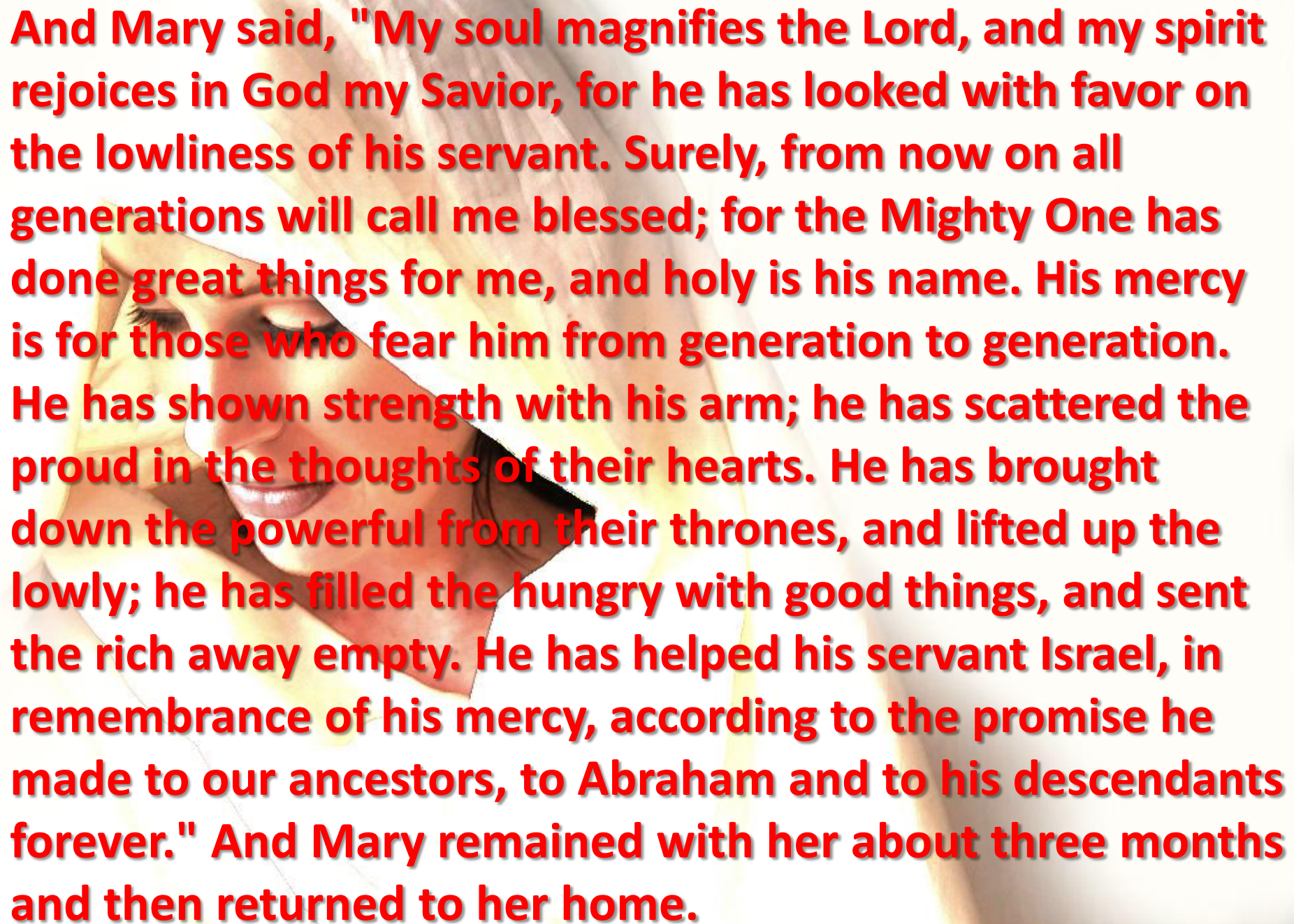






In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."





And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.





The New-York Times

NO. 3680.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1863.

GOD TAPS NAZARETH NOBODY

"My soul magnifies the Lord," rejoices little Mary, "and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant."

TREAT OF

Prospect of Another Great Battle.

g the Remnant of His the Antietam Battle Ground.

dition Believed to be ly Exhausted.

Across the Potomac Con- nected Impossible.

l Kilpatrick Engaged onsboro on Tues- nd Wednesday.

Driven Back to An- eltam Creek.

of Their Wagons Destroyed.

rd of the Rebel Trans- portation Gone.

ATCH FROM MIDDLETOWN.

...the Potomac... to al... a landing...
...the Potomac... to al... a landing...
...the Potomac... to al... a landing...

NEWS RECEIVED IN BALTIMORE.

Baltimore, Thursday, July 9.

The American has the following special dis- patch:

Frederick, July 9.

Our cavalry have been engaged in a battle between Funkstown and Hagerstown, about six miles this side of Hagerstown.

The rebels were in heavy force. Our cavalry were compelled to fall back to Funkstown, where Gen. Kitzan's command says he is only wounded.

The particulars of the fight have not as yet been received, but we learn that Gen. Kitzan's command was not only repulsed, but was com- pelled to retreat to Funkstown.

The rebels are still on the side of the river, nearest near Hagerstown, endeavoring to get their wagons and plunder across the river.

The reports of the rebels are that they are bringing the report that the advance of the rebel column was crossing the river at Williamsport. If this be so, we need look for no fight in the field.

The impression is that the rebels are in some degree, on which they were sending over their wounded.

A day will probably show where the rebels are, and the probable location of the next battle-field. Considerable artillery firing was heard this afternoon, in the direction of Hagerstown. It was probably our cavalry engaging Gen. Stryker. Gen. Stryker has been very hard to find during the rebel retreat. According to all accounts, his cavalry have had the dash and confidence that once enabled them to over- come at will.

Our spies at Boonsboro report that the enemy's pickets are being thrown out, nearly to that point, in- cluding within their lines the old Antietam battle- field and Shepardstown meeting. The main force, however, is considerably west of this, and across the three roads that meet at Williamsport.

The movements of our army are such as will to- day however fix the enemy's position.

Frederick, in a military sense, is quiet to-night, though still crowded by the followers of a great army.

...the Potomac... to al... a landing...
...the Potomac... to al... a landing...
...the Potomac... to al... a landing...

Early yesterday morning Bernea's and Kitzan- ma's forces combined arrived at Williamsport and attacked the rebels, who had a large cavalry force at hand.

The fight was short but severe, and our troops, find- ing themselves outnumbered, retired towards Hagerstown. The rebels followed them, and the fight continued until dark. The rebels were driven back to Funkstown, where they were engaged in a battle with our cavalry. The rebels were driven back to Funkstown, where they were engaged in a battle with our cavalry.

It is reported here that our cavalry picked up a quantity of arms and ammunition, and that the rebels were driven back to Funkstown.

Gen. Maxze is acquainted with all these matters, and is making his arrangements accordingly, with great rapidity, and in a very judicious manner. To-day or to-morrow he will be in the field, and will certainly take place, if Lee should feel in a fighting mood, and if he should not wax hallelucant, Maxze will certainly attack him.

Accounts from the rebels are that they are in some degree, on which they were sending over their wounded.

At home you must withhold criticism if a large portion of Lee's army should escape, as it was not possible to move troops from Gettysburgh to the Potomac faster than our troops have moved. Not an hour's delay has occurred, except to provide the troops with supplies, without which they could not move. The rebels, seeing the clear line, marched day and night to secure Maxze, and, doubtless, by this time, a large portion of them may have reached the river, but the winter condition will prevent their crossing over so quickly as they expected.

Maryland Heights have again been reconquered. It is reported here almost constantly for three days. The New-York Seventh regiment, Col. Lawrence, arrived here yesterday from Baltimore, and has gone to the front.

REPORTS FROM CHAMBERSBURGH.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Chambersburg, Md. Letter, Thursday, July 9. The rebels withdrew their pickets from Gettysburgh to-day, retreating in wood Hagerstown. Col. Cassin, commanding Second brigade, has taken nine last Saturday, twenty-five hundred and several prisoners, and the First New-York Company C, the Parrott Maryland militia and Hagerstown mounted militia (see number), and fifty more since Saturday morning. The enemy are crossing the Potomac to

...the Potomac... to al... a landing...
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The loss of Gen. Gaxey's command will probably be great. The rebels were driven back to Funkstown, where they were engaged in a battle with our cavalry.

Wounded officers: Capt. H. C. Purdie, 1st Vermont—side; also two soldiers passed through his shirt.

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THE NEWS FROM

Nothing Known on the Whereabouts of

Ignorance of the Su- Vickaburgh

THE RETREAT OF BR

A New Line of Defence nessee River

ALEX. H. STEPHEN

The Richmond Dispatch, of Ju

It contains the following: FROM LEE'S ARMY

Passengers who have arrived in- burgh were told by Mosser's men that Lee's army was marching to the north of the enemy have taken Maryland Heights.

FROM TENNESSEE

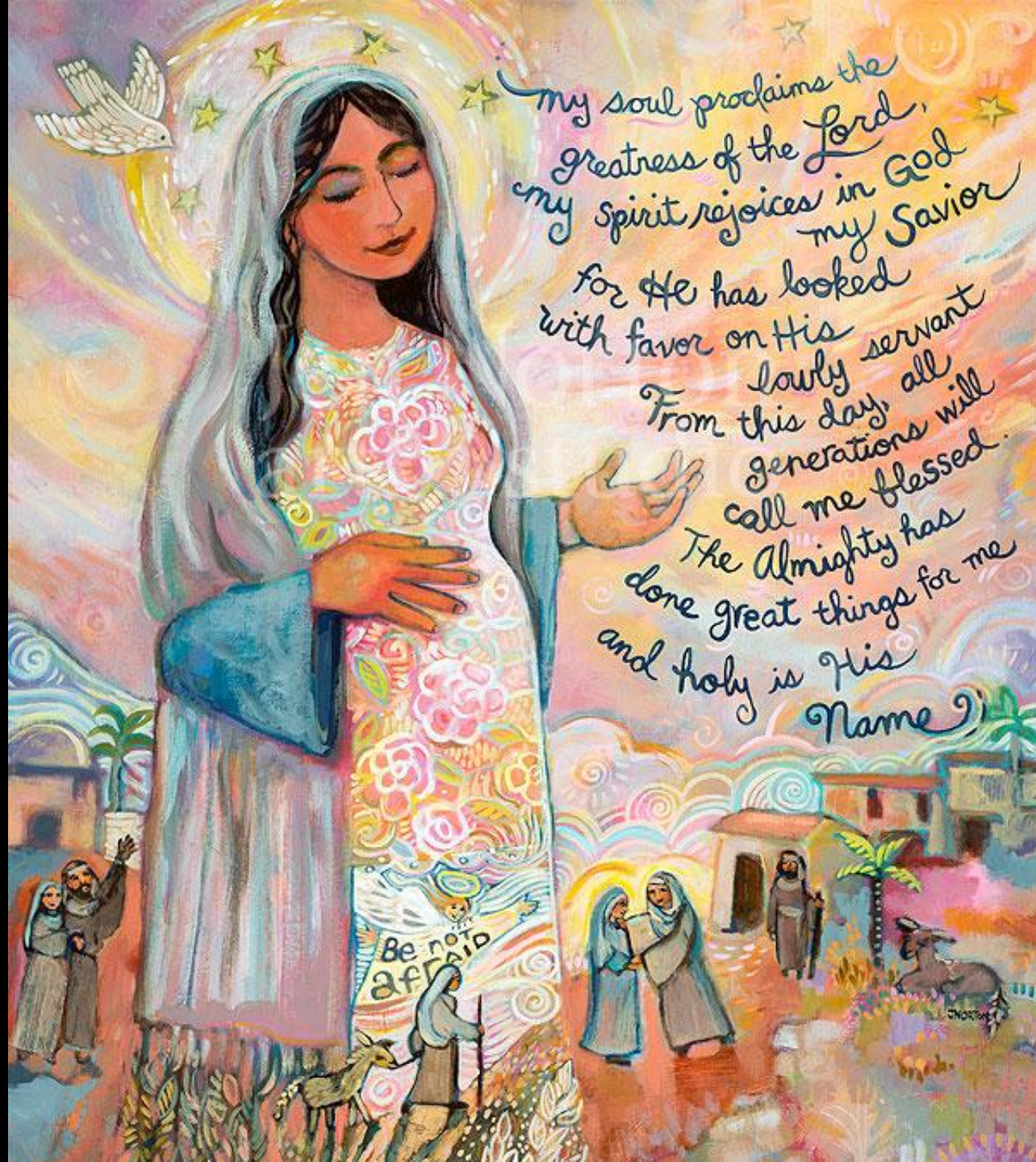
There has been no raid on the Tennessee.

SECOND DISPATCH

It is considered certain that M- bayon with the rear of Gen. Rosser's. An important movement has tak- Hagan's army, but it is not precise- ticular.

THIRD DISPATCH

Gen. Hagan's headquarters are at Tennessee. Hagan will be the same. It is supposed that the rebels are



My soul proclaims the
greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior
for He has looked
with favor on His
lowly servant
From this day, all
generations will
call me blessed.
The Almighty has
done great things for me
and holy is His
Name

Be not
afraid

A dramatic night scene with a bright light source in the sky, a crescent moon, and a shepherd with sheep.

There's Not a Thing That God Can't Do!

“There's not a thing that God can't do!”

The angel said. “Not one!

For Mary, God has favored you

And you will bear God's Son.”

A dramatic scene of a shepherd with sheep under a bright light and a crescent moon. The scene is set in a dark, open field with a shepherd and his flock of sheep. A bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun or moon, is positioned high in the sky, creating a strong lens flare effect. A crescent moon is visible in the upper left corner. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and divine presence.

There's Not a Thing That God Can't Do!

So Mary answered, "Here am I,
The servant of the Lord."
She knew that she could well rely
Upon the angel's word.

A dramatic, high-contrast scene featuring a shepherd and a flock of sheep in a dark, open landscape. A bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun or moon, is positioned at the top center, creating a strong lens flare effect. In the upper left corner, a crescent moon is visible against the dark sky. The shepherd, dressed in dark clothing, stands on the right side of the frame, tending to the sheep. The sheep are scattered across the field, some in the foreground and others further back. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet contemplation and divine presence.

There's Not a Thing That God Can't Do!

There's not a blessing we won't know

If God is pleased to share;

As Mary found out long ago,

We're ever in God's care.



There's Not a Thing That God Can't Do!

O God, what awesome things you do;

You call, surprise, and bless!

As Mary answered, may we, too,

Respond by saying, "Yes!"*



