

The Christmas Story

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Text from
KING JAMES
Version of the Bible

Advent Series: The Christmas Story According to Luke
Sermon: Sermon: Benedictus: God's Mercy and Faithfulness
Lk. 1:57-80





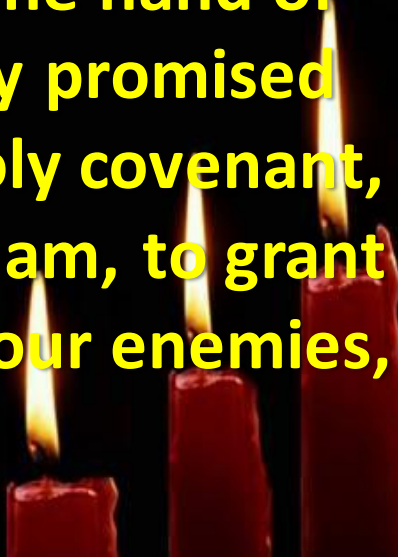


Luke 1:57-66 (NRSV)

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Luke 1:67-80 (NRSV)

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Three lit red candles are positioned in the bottom right corner of the image. The candles are of varying heights and are all lit, with bright yellow flames. The background is dark, making the red of the candles stand out.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.





Eggs Benedict served on a hubcap
because there's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise



**Stayed up so late, attempted -- quite unsuccessfully --
To love all of our relatives, and in general
Grossly overestimated our powers. Once again
As in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and
failed**

**To do more than entertain it as an agreeable
Possibility, once again we have sent Him away,
Begging though to remain His disobedient servant,
The promising child who cannot keep His word for long.**

FOR THE TIME BEING: A Christmas Oratorio

By W H Auden



O God, Your Grace Has Now Appeared

O God, your grace has now appeared
in Mary's tiny boy.

In this, your story, may we hear
good news of wondrous joy.

O God, Your Grace Has Now Appeared

Your gift of peace was heard that night
and shepherds were amazed.

Like them, may all your church delight
in angel's songs of praise.

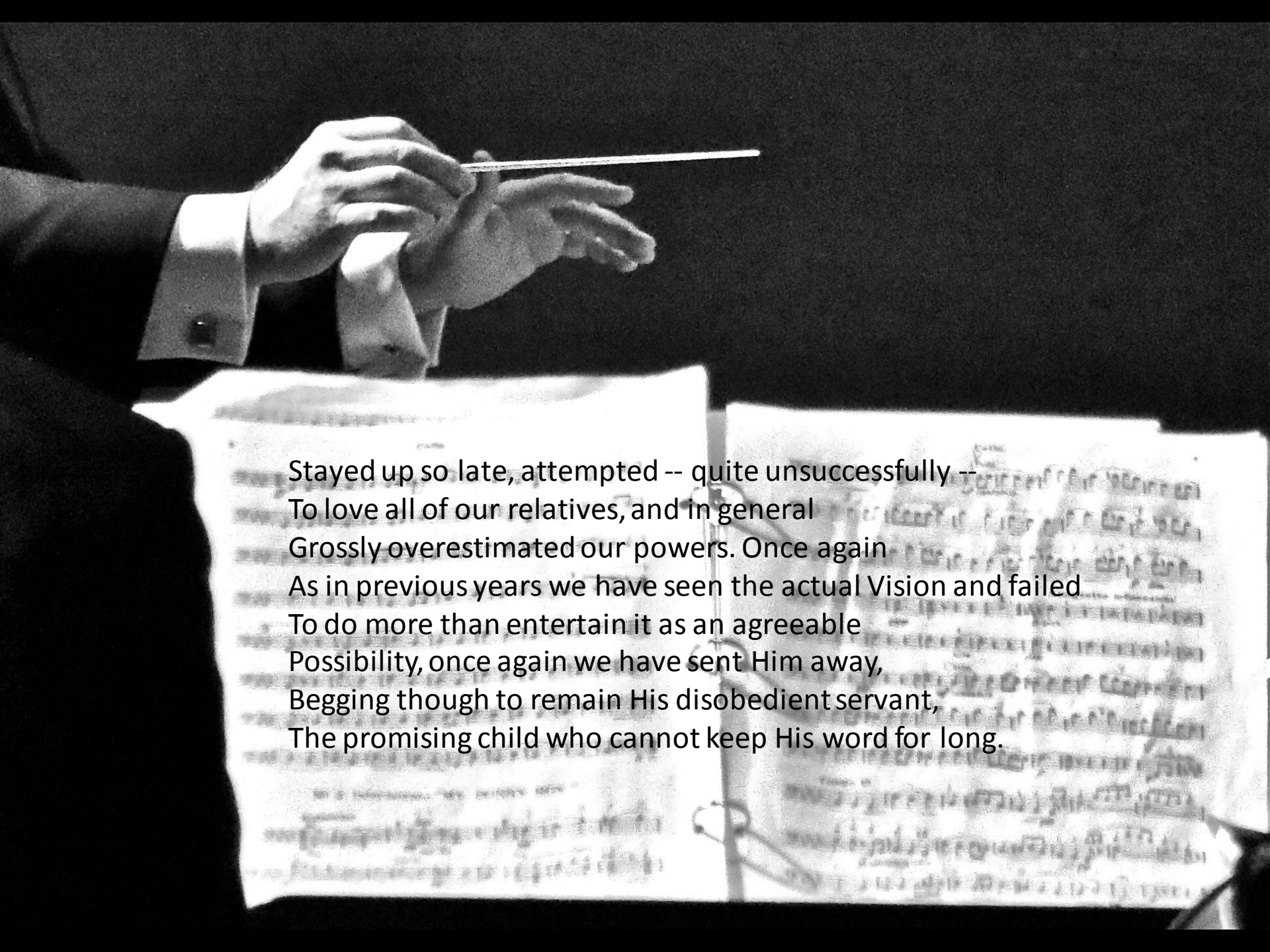
O God, Your Grace Has Now Appeared

As Mary and as Joseph heard
what shepherds came to say,
May we find wonder in your word –
for still you speak today.

O God, Your Grace Has Now Appeared

God, by your Spirit, may we find
in words we've long confessed,
Your grace that calls us to respond –
to live as we've been blessed.





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