CHRISTMAS BALLAD
Joseph and Mary were living in Galilee, when Caesar demanded a census by his decree. They had to travel to Bethlehem, which was a very long way for them, and Mary would soon, so soon, deliver her child.

They set out at once, though the trip would be rough, they could see. They made no complaint, for they knew this was how it must be.

Mary went happily from the start. She carried the love-light in her heart, for Mary would soon, so soon deliver her child.

When they arrived, Mary knew that her moment had come. Joseph went searching for shelter still offered to some. But strangers were suspect and hearts were hard. The hopes and the homes of the world were barred, and Mary would soon, so soon deliver her child.

So in the dirt and the damp and the dark of a cave, took flesh all the love and the life that our God ever gave... a beautiful burst of a brilliant sun, a once-in-a-lifetime, seen by none, for Mary had quietly, simply delivered her child.

Words and music: Miriam Therese Winter
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SING OF BIRTH
On a cold and lonely night in the hills of a land called Judah, there shone a star so big and bright, that all the fields reflected light, and shepherds marvelled at the sight and sang their alleluia.

Refrain
Sing, you people, sing of birth. Christ our God has come to earth. Sing, you people, sing of birth. Christ, our God, has come to earth.

Verses 2 and 3
In a simple cattle shed in the hills of a land called Judah, on a straw-filled manger bed, the Son of God lay down his head. A king chose common ways instead! O sing an alleluia. Refrain
You who are born of poverty in a modern town or ghetto... God allows that this should be. He chose to make you just as he. He'll come again to set you free, so sing your alleluia. Refrain

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IN THE BEGINNING
In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through Him all things came to be, all things had life in Him and He was the light, the light in the darkness of the night.

And then a man was sent by God, he was a witness, his name was John. He came as witness to the light. He came that everyone might believe again that the light enlightens men.

And so the Word was in the world, with His own people, His own domain. The world had its being through the Word, and yet His message was not heard, alone, unknown, rejected by His own.

And by the will of God himself, the Word was with us, the Word was flesh. He lived among us, side by side. We saw His glory far and wide. He touched our race, full of truth and grace. In the beginning was the Word.

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SILENT THE NIGHT
Silent the night. Strange were the people.
Lonely the flight chasing a star.
God came to earth, a quiet birth.
He was real to our touch, and he seemed very much
as we are.
Love and be warm, though doubt surrounds you.
After the storm comes a new day.
How long before men die no more,
or what matter your skin, you’ll find room at the inn,
come what may.
Silent the night. Silenced the people.
Not calm nor bright, but angry and worn.
The people cry, as he passes by,
and continue to grope toward that thin shred of hope
this Christmas morn.

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TAKE COURAGE
Refrain
Strengthen all the weary hands,
steady all the trembling knees.
Say to all faint hearts, “Take courage!”
For He comes, the Prince of Peace.

Verses
The blind eyes shall be opened
and the ears of the deaf unsealed.
The crooked shall be straightened
and the hidden thoughts revealed. Refrain
A little child shall lead us
from the darkness of the past.
Though stubbornness impede us,
we shall know a peace at last. Refrain
One morning in a manger
brought our exile to an end.
The Lord came as a stranger
and became our saving friend.

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NO LONGER ALONE
Out of the silence the Almighty Word,
speaking like thunder, filled us with wonder,
told us He loved us, told us He cared,
told us He’d come if we really prepared.
Into the night came the Light of the world.
God-light revealing, tenderly healing.
Darkness was over. Morning began.
God came to earth and He came as a man.
Welcome to Love, we’re no longer alone.
In joy and sorrow, today and tomorrow,
Love will be with us. Love’s here to stay.
Sing every morning: “It’s Christmas today!”

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O WHAT A HAPPENING
On a dark day deep in December,
grinding the poverty, grey was the morn.
Only the clean of heart still can remember
the day and the moment when Jesus was born.

Refrain
O what a happening! Christians, rejoice!
Lift up your hearts! Lift up your voice!
O what a happening! Our life began
when Jesus our God became a man.

Verse 2
On a dark day deep in the present,
grinding the loneliness and plight of the poor.
Only the clean of heart dare to remember,
the poor were His Gospel and their hope is sure. Refrain

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SONG OF GLORY
God’s own Son has come to earth, Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.
Celebrate His wonderful birth. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.
Hear the good news of this Word. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.
Share the sound of hope we’ve heard. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Verse 1
God of love: Glory to God.

God of peace: Glory to God.

God of splendor: Glory to God.

A little child shall lead us
from the darkness of the past.
Though stubbornness impede us,
we shall know a peace at last. Refrain
One morning in a manger
brought our exile to an end.
The Lord came as a stranger
and became our saving friend.

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PEACE UPON EARTH
Peace upon earth is the prayer we offer.
Peace was the promise when Jesus was born.
Peace to all men. Peace once again to this
war-weary, war-worried world this morn.

Life of the world, and a new beginning,
bright as a star-night when our light is dim.
His Word will live. Hurry to give Him
the whole of our lives, let us welcome Him.

Glory to God in His might and power,
once but a child as the Father had planned.
Pray now that we one day might be but a
moment of peace cradled in His hand.

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