

## **The First Night of Christmas**

'Twas the first night of Christmas, and all over the earth  
The people dwelt in darkness unaware of Jesus' coming birth.  
The shepherds were guarding their flocks full of sheep  
While the townspeople prepared for a long night of sleep.

Bethlehem was crowded and full to the brim  
As a decree from Augustus had brought in King David's kin.  
A young couple from Nazareth arrived tired and worn.  
Joseph looked for lodging before Mary's baby was born.

They bedded down in a stable to wait for the child  
When it was time for the birth, Mary secretly smiled.  
For an angel had come with news of great favor.  
She would soon have a son who would become a great Savior.

Israel's waiting was over, their Messiah, long-awaited,  
Was entering the world, as the prophets had stated.  
The birthplace of Jesus was simple, not grand,  
But it had all the things God had carefully planned.

Jesus was wrapped by his mother with care,  
While Joseph kept watch over the babe who laid there.  
Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus on earth,  
And they marveled and cherished his infinite worth.

While out in the field where the shepherds' flocks grazed  
An event was unfolding that left the shepherds amazed.  
Suddenly, an angel of God appeared by their side  
And scared them to death--they had no place to hide.

God's radiance shown down, like a glorious parade  
But the angel assured them, "Please don't be afraid.  
I bring news of great joy meant to cheer everyone!  
For tonight, in David's town, the Greatest King's had a Son!

When you see this clear sign, you don't need to be wary:  
The baby's wrapped in a manger. He's with Joseph and Mary.  
For he is the Messiah, your Savior, the Lord,  
God's promise fulfilled, Israel's greatest reward."

Then suddenly the angel was no longer alone.  
He was joined by heaven's army which had come from God's throne.  
Not to battle or fight but to announce a great peace  
That had come to all those with whom God was well pleased.

It was a grand celebration, the angels were marvelous;  
Praising God with their voices, announcing God was among us!  
The shepherds just stared; overcome with the thought  
Of this wonderful news that the angels had brought.

Then as quick as they came, the angels went on their way.  
The shepherds turned and they said without any delay,  
"Let's go to Bethlehem to see what the angel foretold.  
Hurry, get ready, there is a child to behold."

Entering the village they found Jesus in bed,  
In a manger wrapped snugly as the angel had said.  
Overcome by their joy to see such a sight  
The shepherds stopped everyone to share their delight.

They told of the baby to all who would listen  
And many were astonished by their heavenly vision.  
They returned to their flocks praising God for what they had seen  
While Mary quietly pondered what all this might mean.

Isaiah foretold of this Christmas event  
That a child would be born, that a Son would be sent.  
It would happen one night while the world lay in darkness.  
We would see a great Light and he would shine life upon us.

No longer alone, no reason to fear  
The light of his presence will always be near.  
God with us, Immanuel, is one of his names—  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, brings peace that remains.

On this night before Christmas, we look for his light  
We open our hearts and let it shine bright.  
Our Hope, our Redeemer, our Savior, our Friend  
We welcome King Jesus, whose rule never ends.

