

Christmas Crackers





JOY
HOPE
PEACE
LOVE



*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child
and will give birth to a son and you will call him Immanuel. - Isaiah 7:14*

Welcome


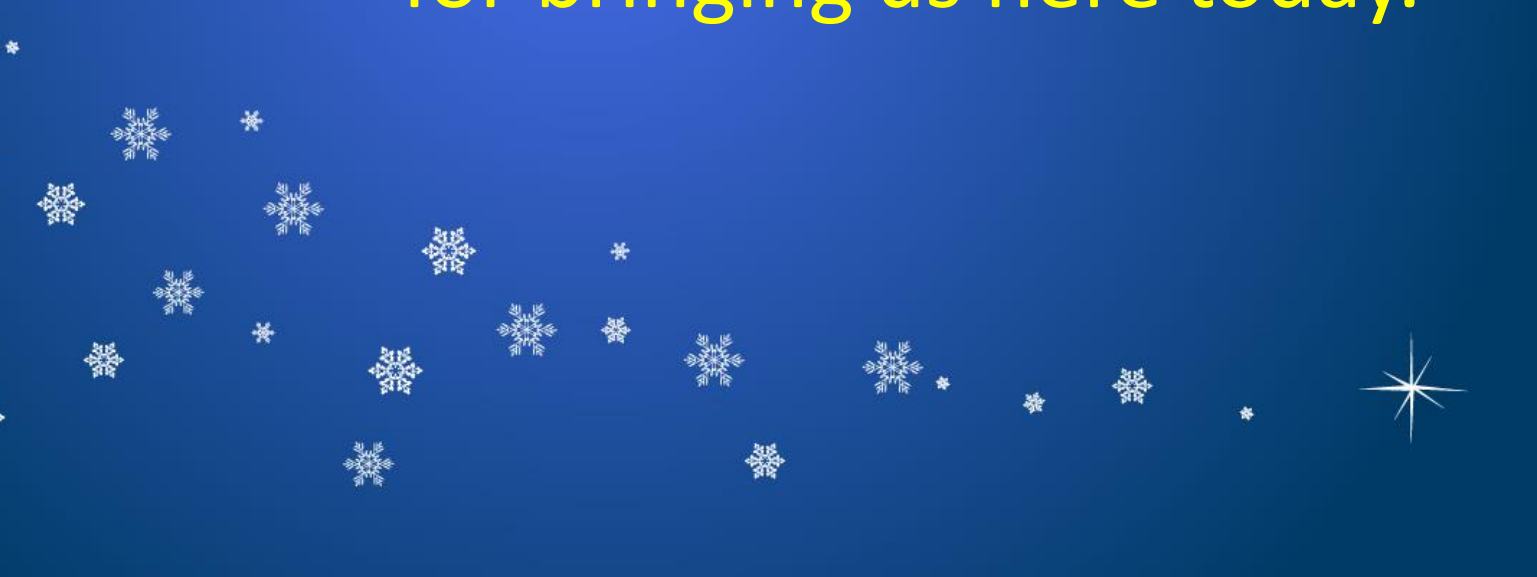
Welcome to our “cracker” of a Nativity
Service





Let us pray together.

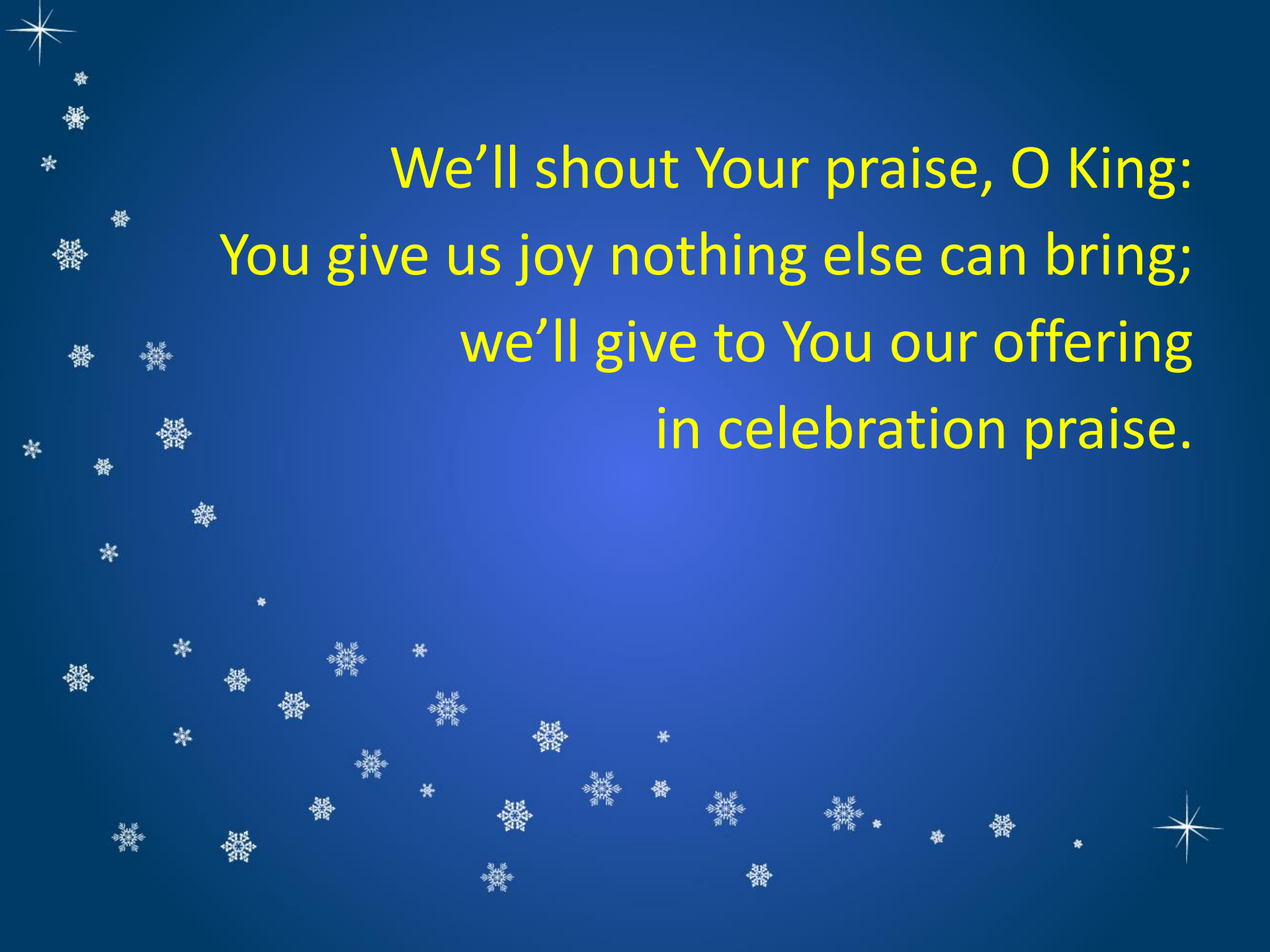
Thank you Lord,
for your family and friends
for love and laughter
for joy and singing
for bringing us here today.






MP 99 - Come on and Celebrate

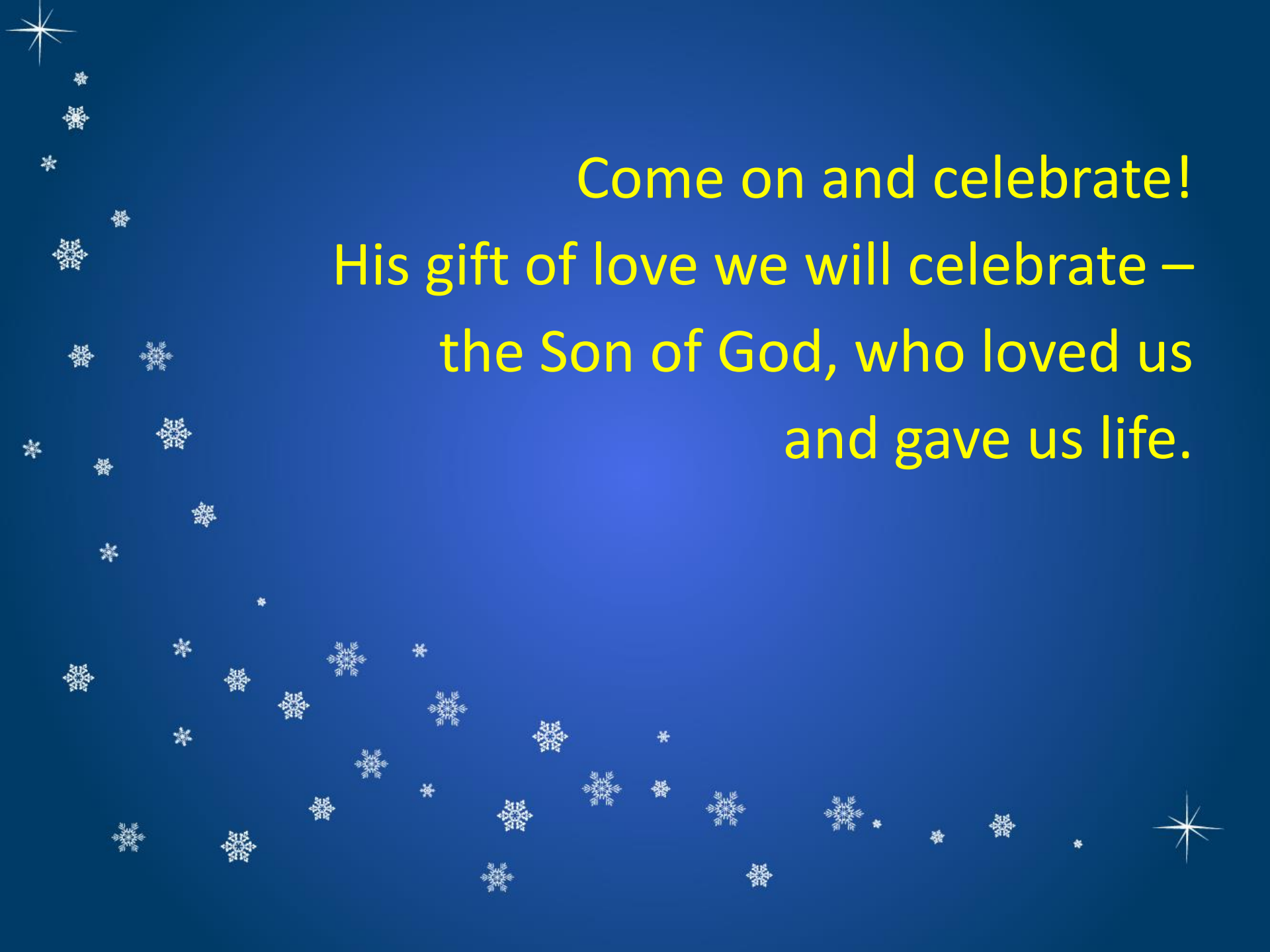
Come on and celebrate!
His gift of love we will celebrate
the Son of God, who loved us
and gave us life.



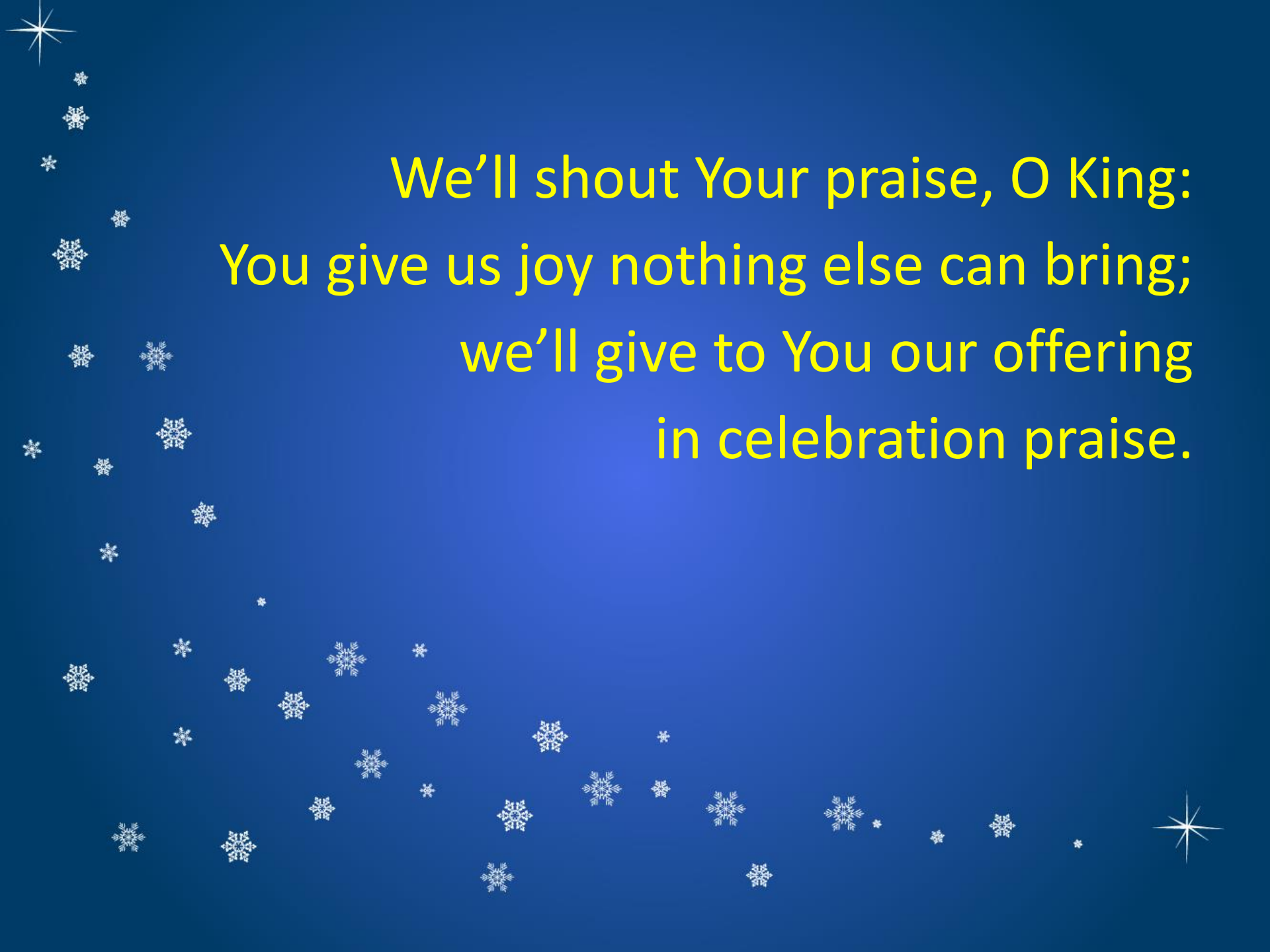
We'll shout Your praise, O King:
You give us joy nothing else can bring;
we'll give to You our offering
in celebration praise.




Come on and celebrate, celebrate,
celebrate and sing,
celebrate and sing to the King:
Come on and celebrate, celebrate,
celebrate and sing,
celebrate and sing to the King!



Come on and celebrate!
His gift of love we will celebrate –
the Son of God, who loved us
and gave us life.



We'll shout Your praise, O King:
You give us joy nothing else can bring;
we'll give to You our offering
in celebration praise.



Come on and celebrate, celebrate,
celebrate and sing,
celebrate and sing to the King:
Come on and celebrate, celebrate,
celebrate and sing,
celebrate and sing to the King!

Cracker 1

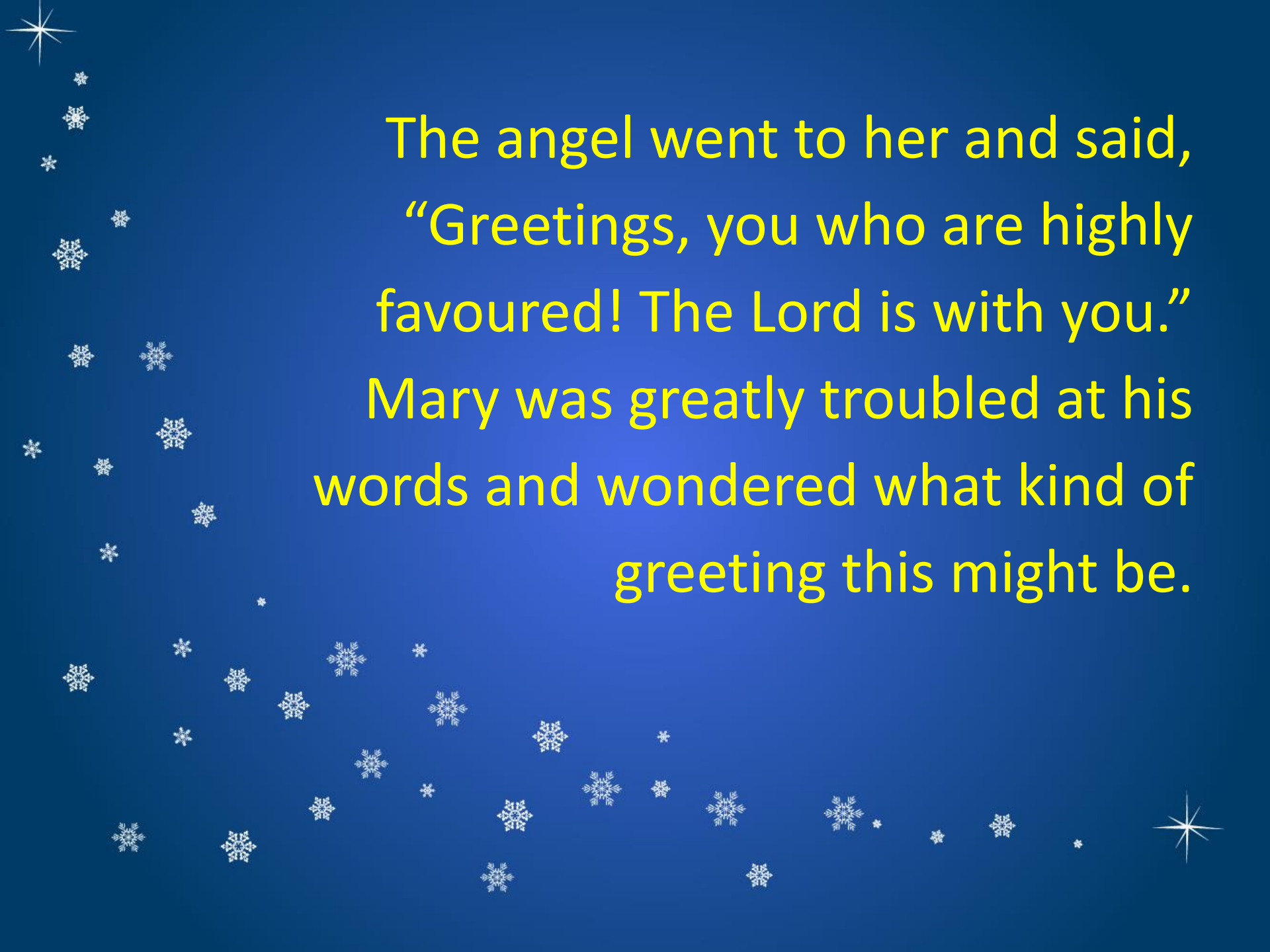
Please pull Cracker Number One
now..



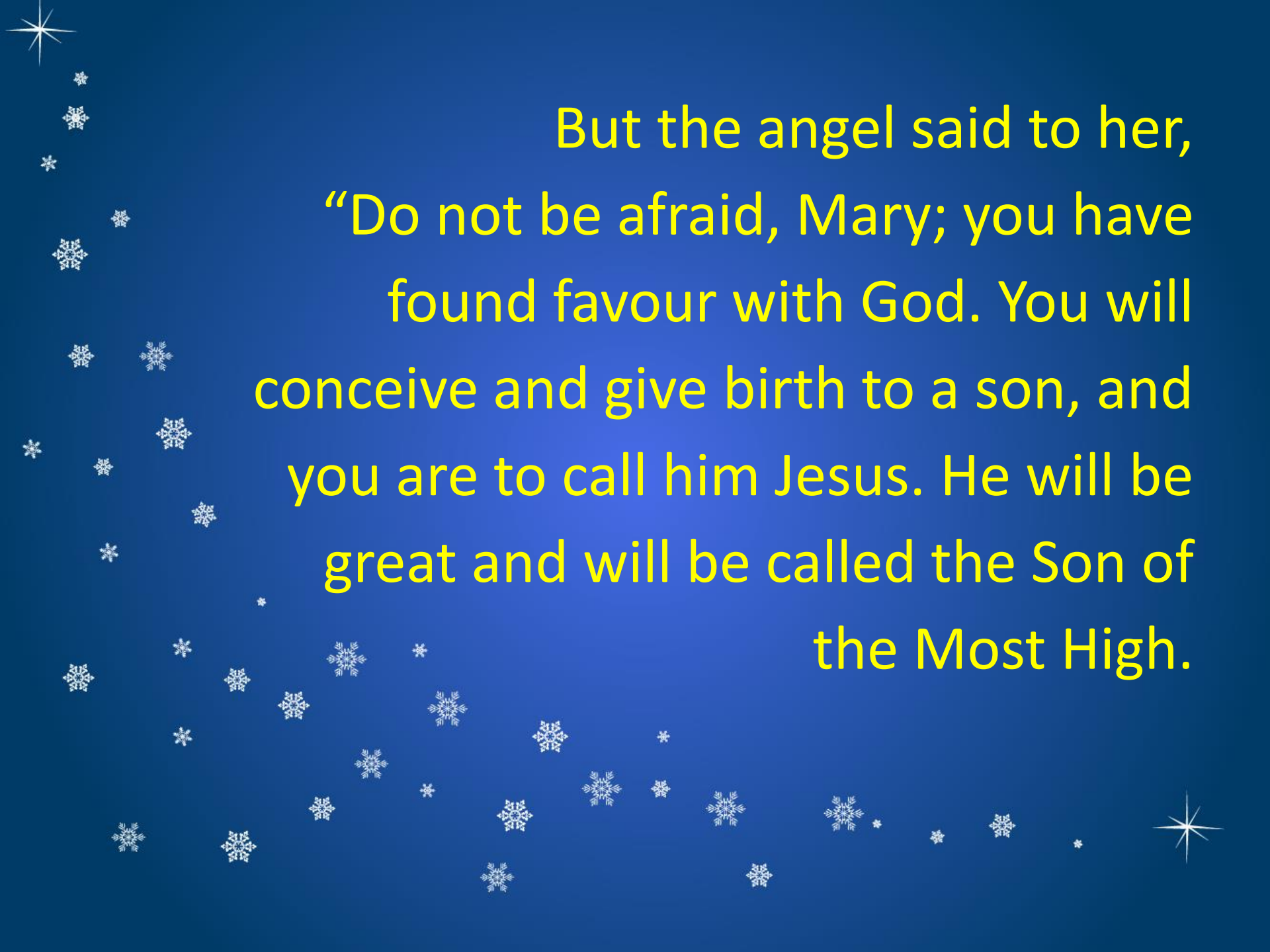


Mary (Luke 1: 26-33)


In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.



The angel went to her and said,
“Greetings, you who are highly
favoured! The Lord is with you.”
Mary was greatly troubled at his
words and wondered what kind of
greeting this might be.



But the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary; you have
found favour with God. You will
conceive and give birth to a son, and
you are to call him Jesus. He will be
great and will be called the Son of
the Most High.



The Lord God will give him the
throne of his father David, and he
will reign over Jacob's descendants
forever; his kingdom will never end."

MARY

- + TEENAGE
- + PREGNANT
- + SHOCKED
- + CONFUSED
- + JOYFUL



Cracker 2

Please pull Cracker Number Two
now..



Angel



"Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus."

*"How can this happen?
I am not married!"*







"The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God ... Nothing is impossible for God!"



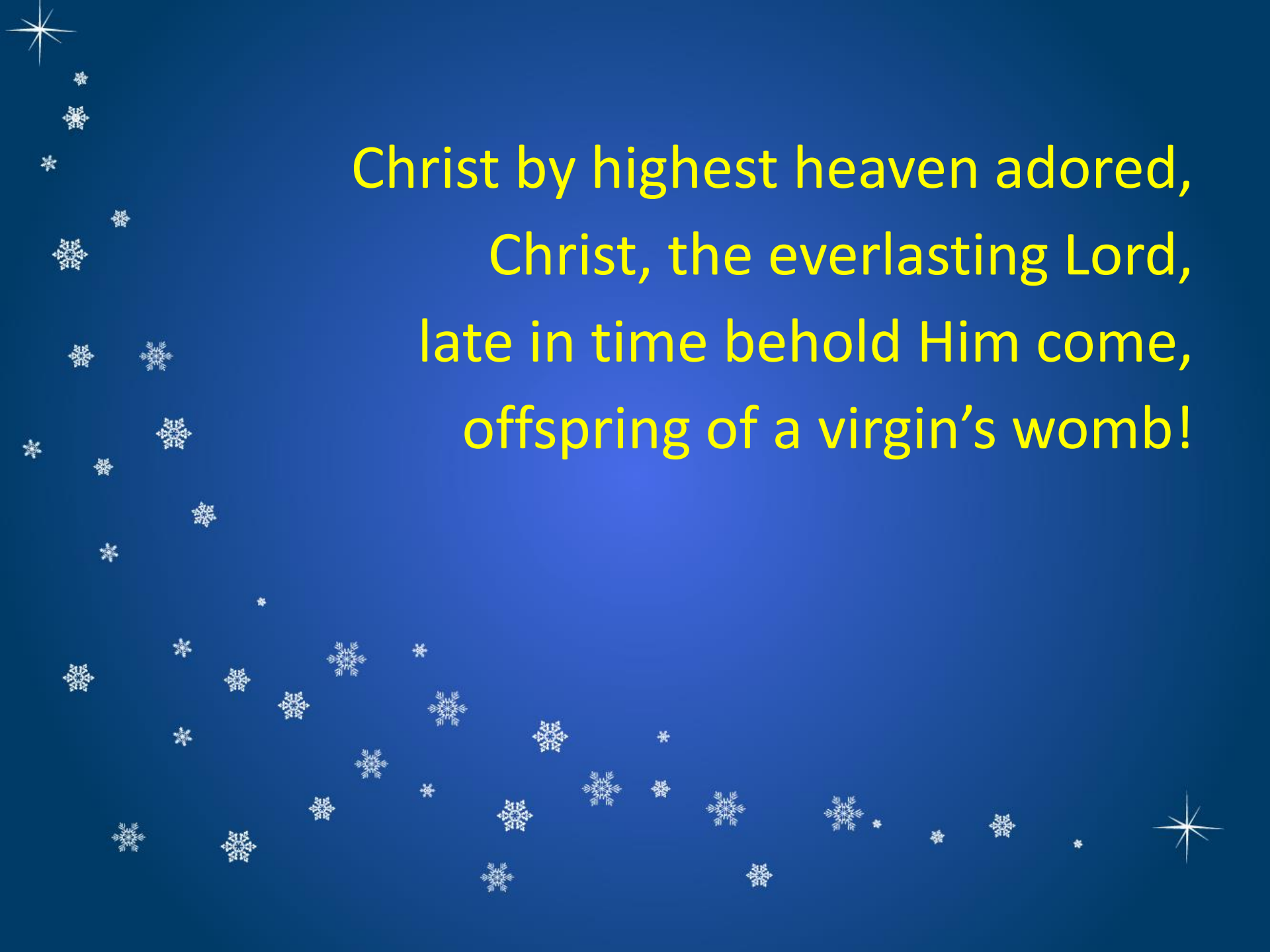
MP 211 – Hark the Herald Angels

1 Hark! the herald-angels sing,
‘Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth,
and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.’

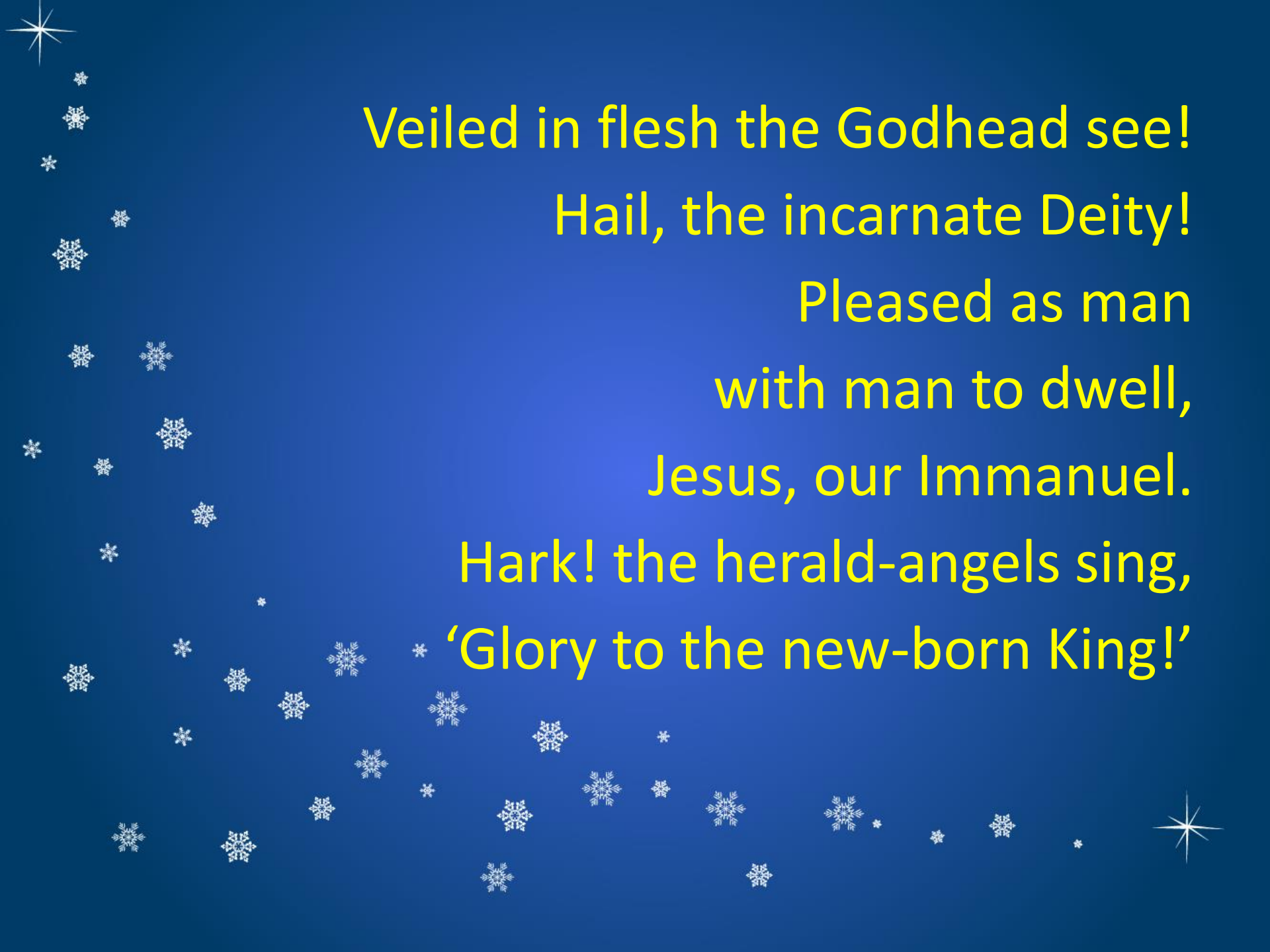





Joyful, all you nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’
Hark! the herald-angels sing,
‘Glory to the new-born King!’




Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!



Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man
with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald-angels sing,
‘Glory to the new-born King!’



Hail, the heaven-born
Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.



Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald-angels sing,
‘Glory to the new-born King!’

Cracker 3

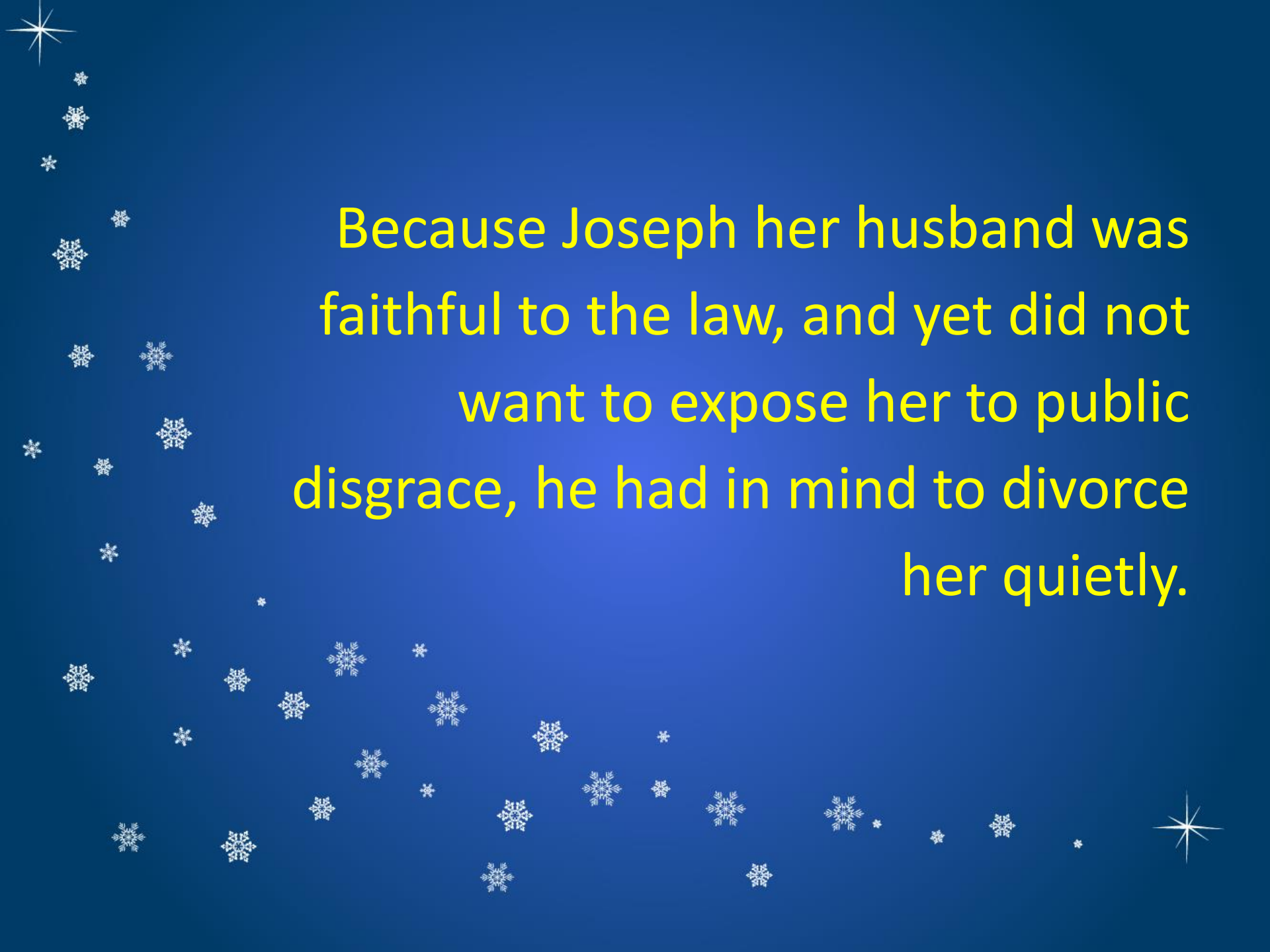
Please pull Cracker Number Three
now..



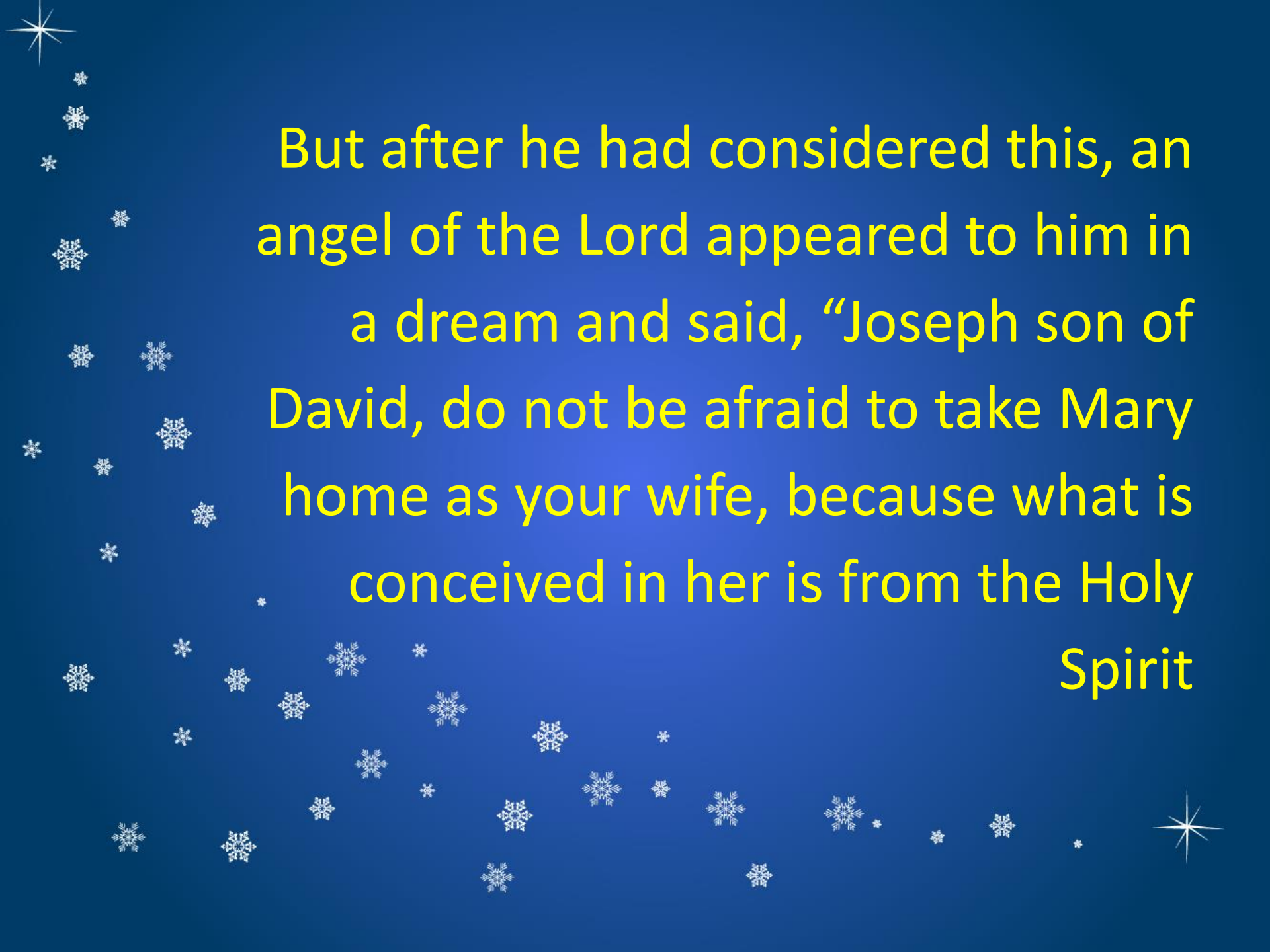


Joseph (Matthew 1 v 18 -25)

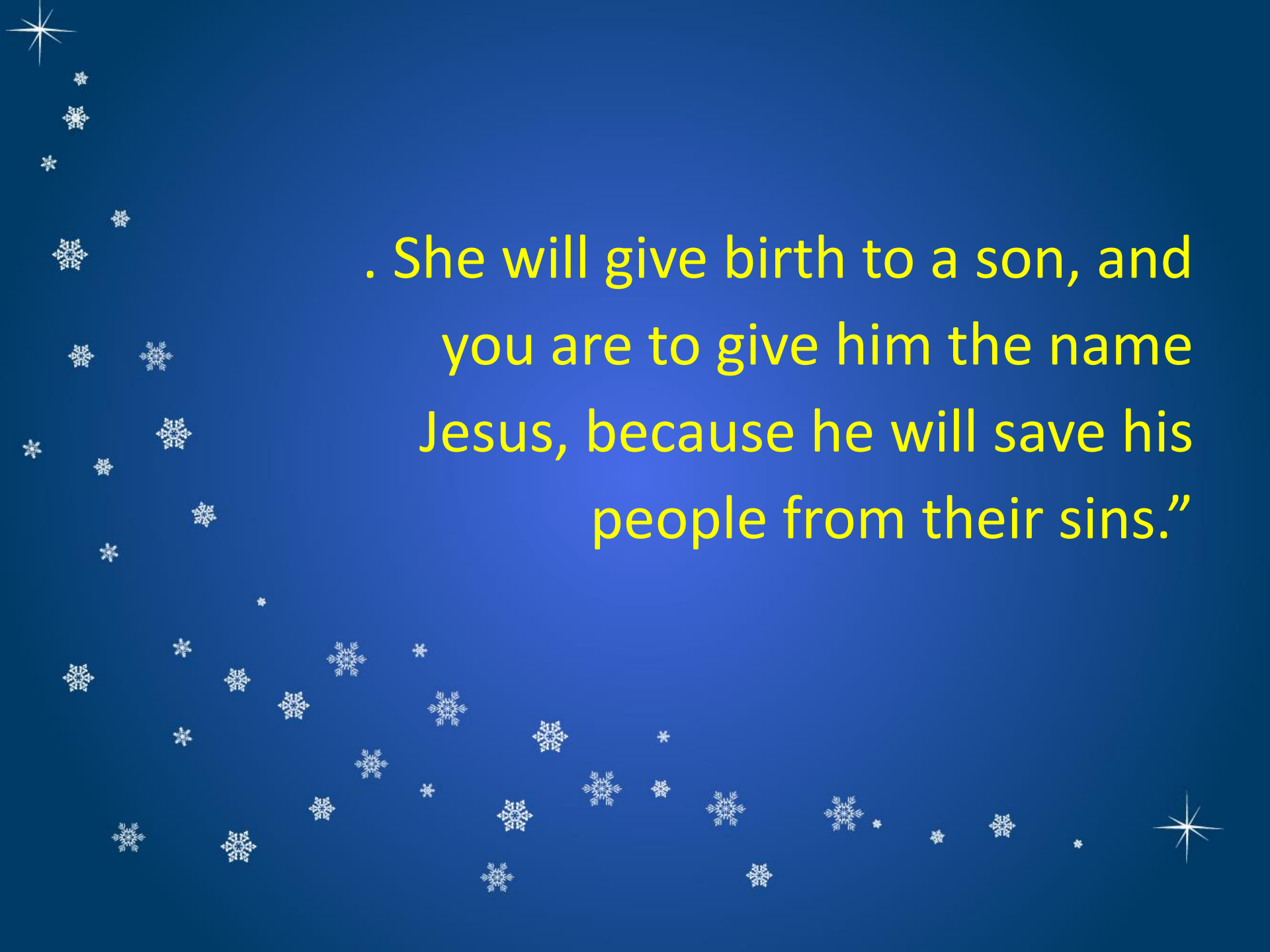
This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.



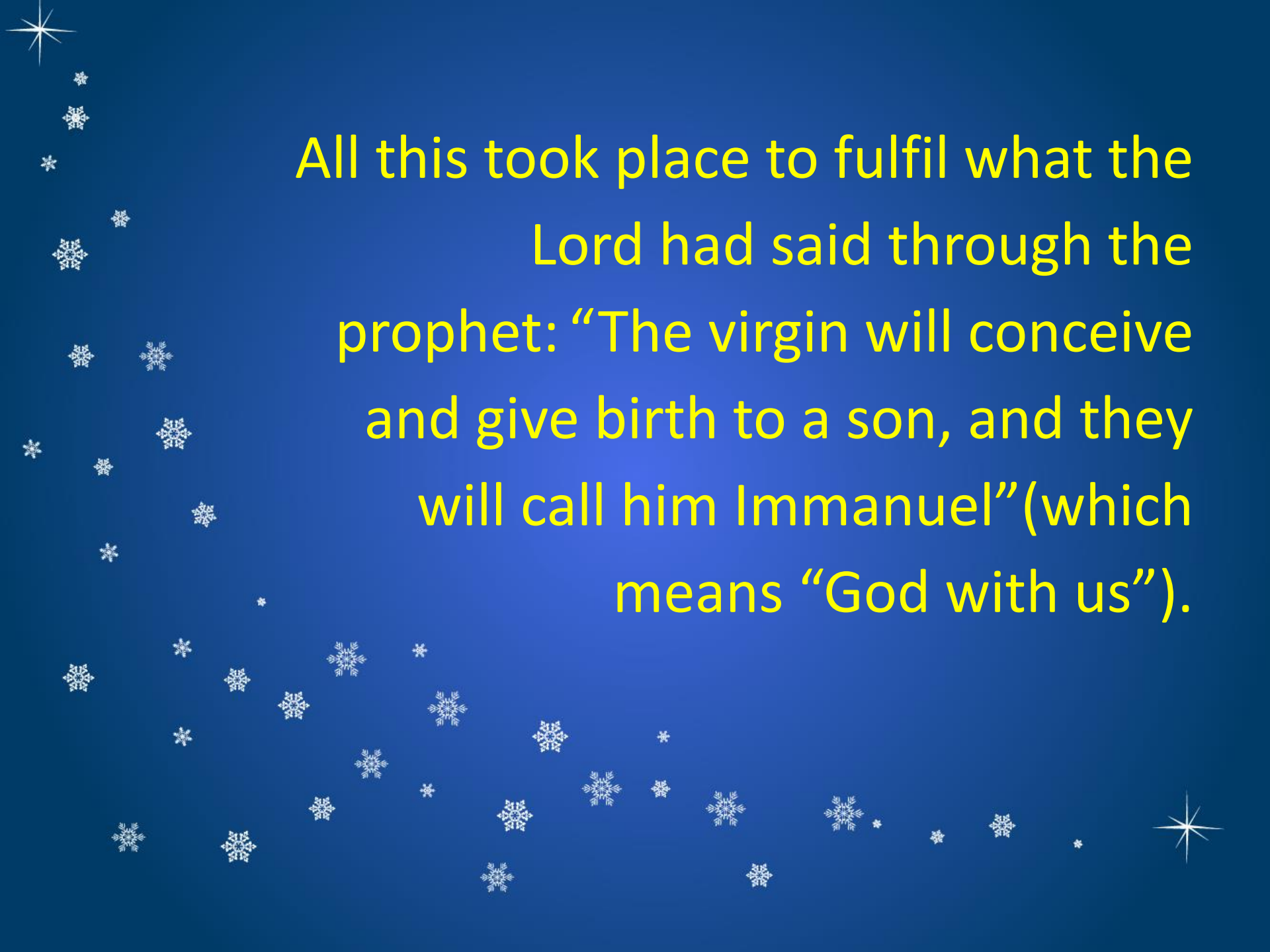
Because Joseph her husband was
faithful to the law, and yet did not
want to expose her to public
disgrace, he had in mind to divorce
her quietly.



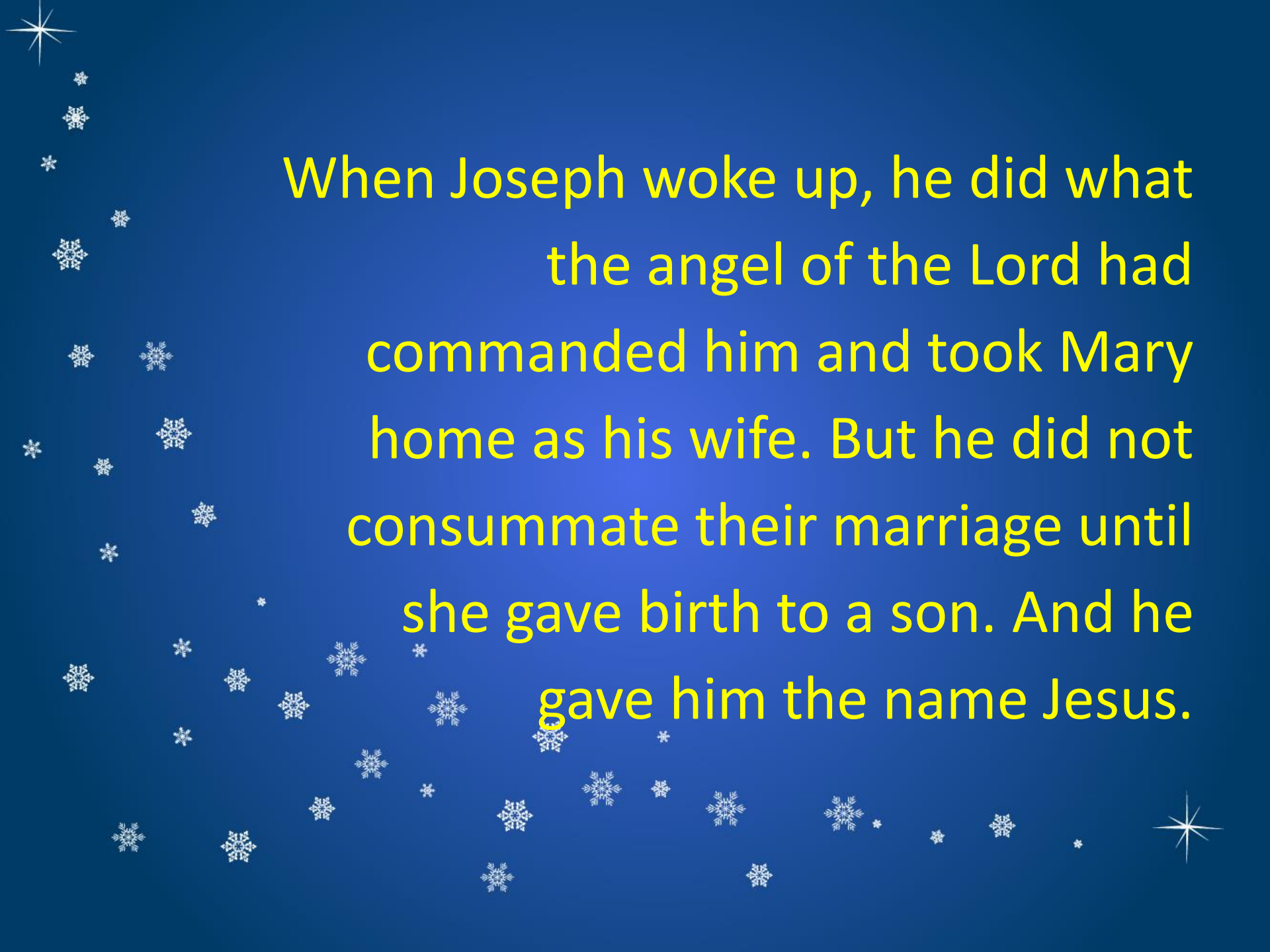
But after he had considered this, an
angel of the Lord appeared to him in
a dream and said, “Joseph son of
David, do not be afraid to take Mary
home as your wife, because what is
conceived in her is from the Holy
Spirit



. She will give birth to a son, and
you are to give him the name
Jesus, because he will save his
people from their sins.”



All this took place to fulfil what the
Lord had said through the
prophet: “The virgin will conceive
and give birth to a son, and they
will call him Immanuel” (which
means “God with us”).

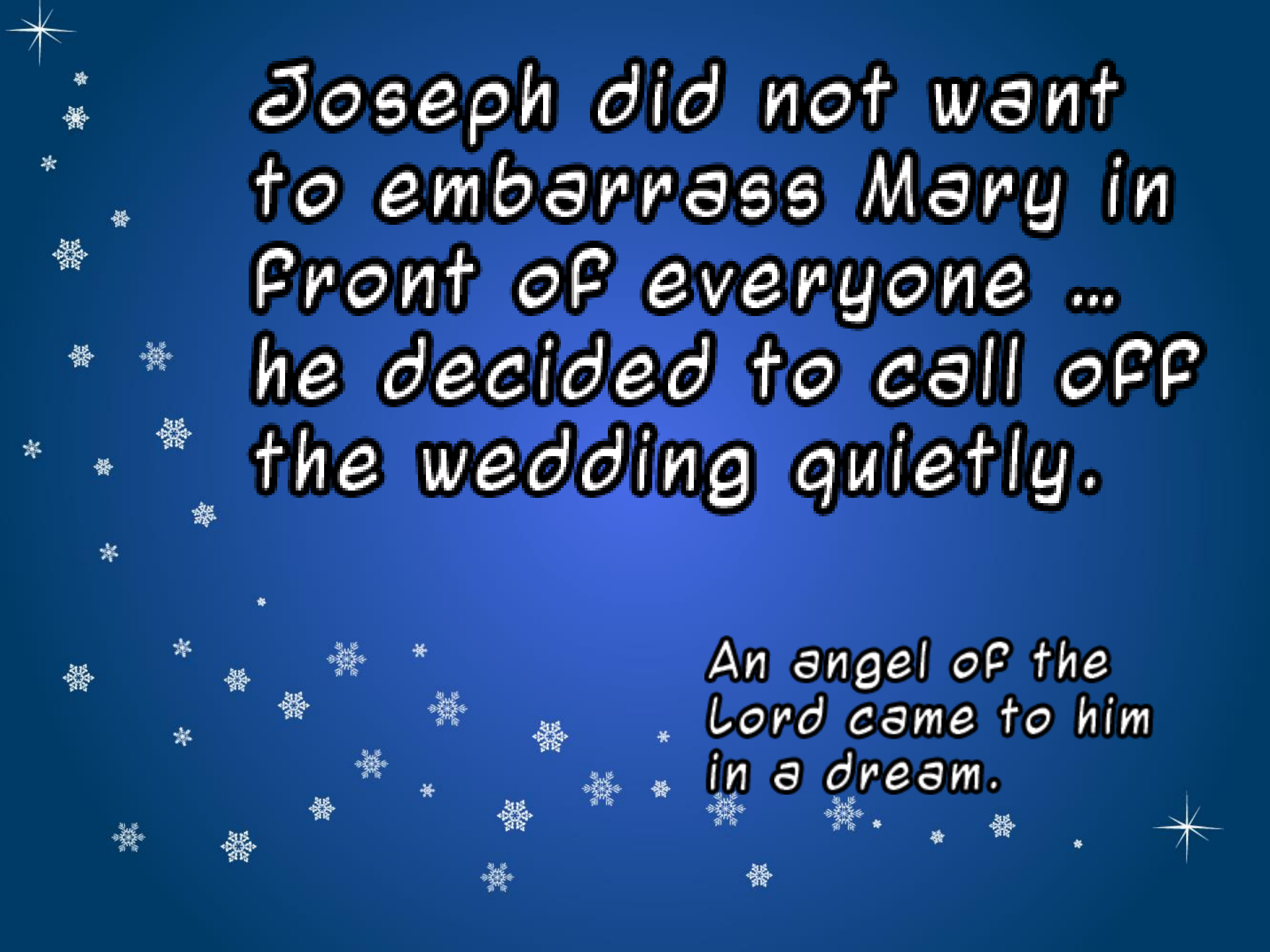


When Joseph woke up, he did what
the angel of the Lord had
commanded him and took Mary
home as his wife. But he did not
consummate their marriage until
she gave birth to a son. And he
gave him the name Jesus.

JOSEPH

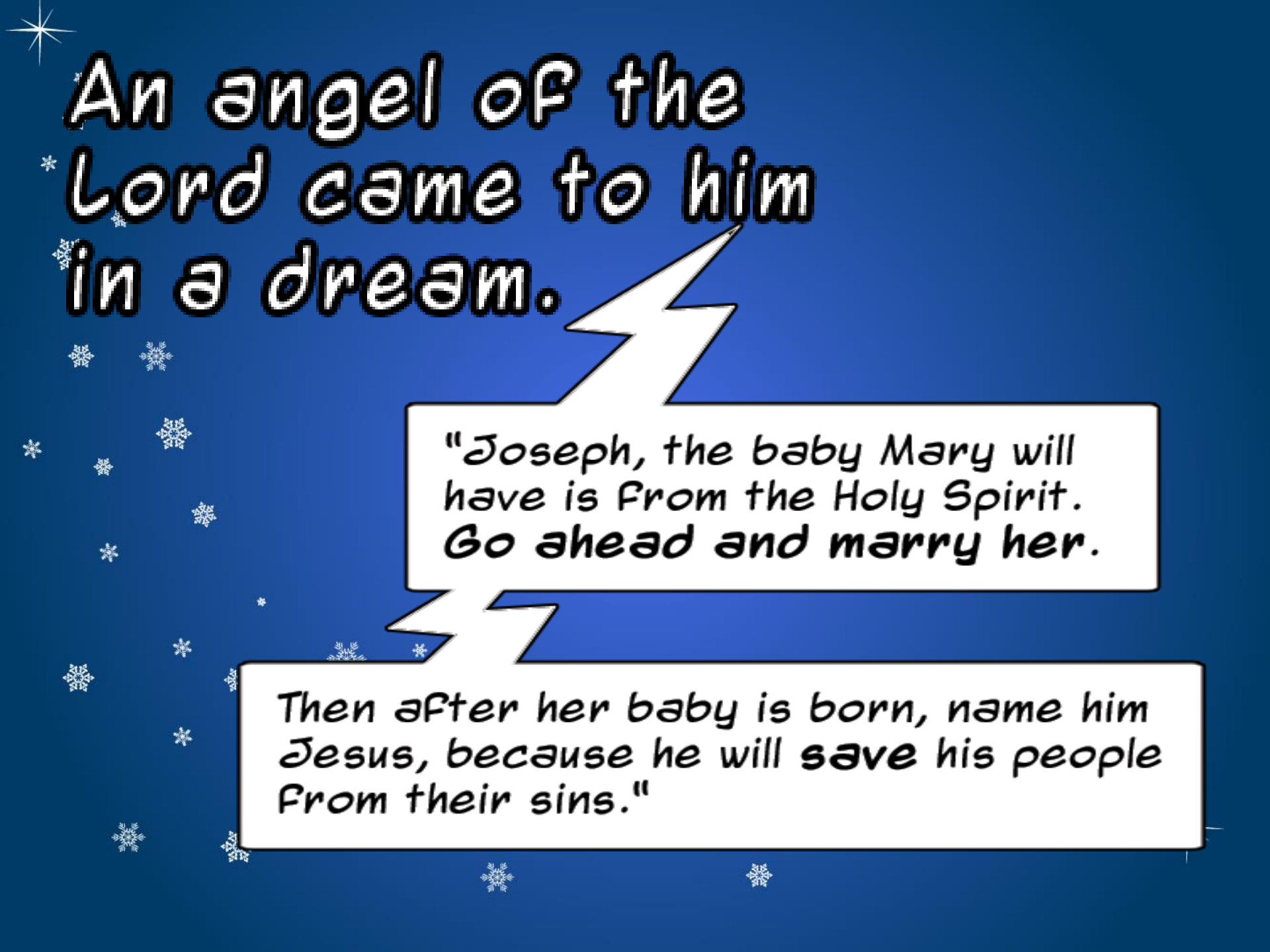
- + HONEST
- + RESPECTFUL
- + LOVING
- + ORDINARY
- + CARPENTER





Joseph did not want
to embarrass Mary in
front of everyone ...
he decided to call off
the wedding quietly.

An angel of the
Lord came to him
in a dream.



An angel of the
Lord came to him
in a dream.

"Joseph, the baby Mary will
have is From the Holy Spirit.
Go ahead and marry her.

Then after her baby is born, name him
Jesus, because he will **save** his people
From their sins."

Cracker 4

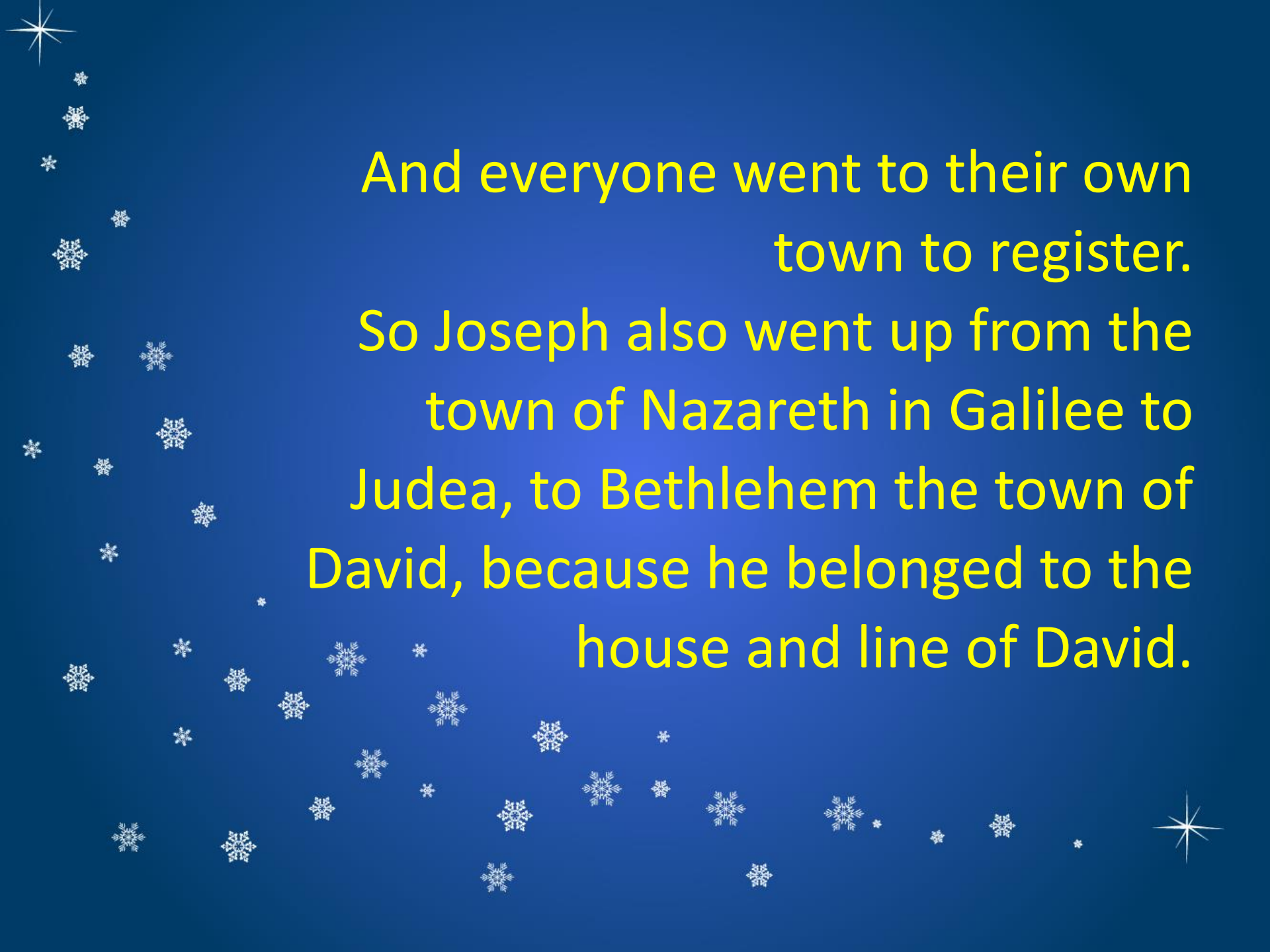
Please pull Cracker Number Four
now..



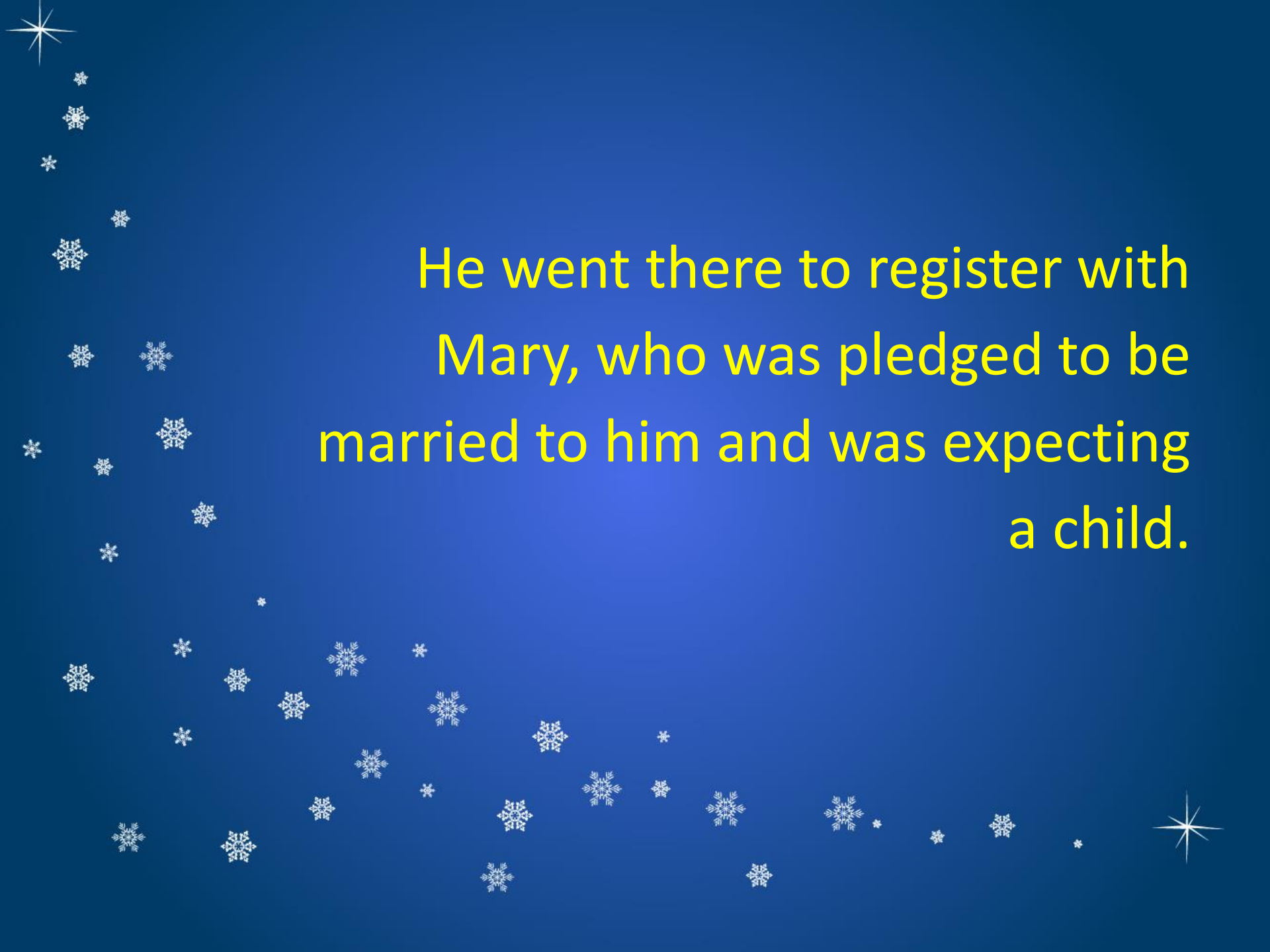


Map (Luke 2- 1-5)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued
a decree that a census should be
taken of the entire Roman world.
(This was the first census that took
place while Quirinius was governor
of Syria.)



And everyone went to their own
town to register.
So Joseph also went up from the
town of Nazareth in Galilee to
Judea, to Bethlehem the town of
David, because he belonged to the
house and line of David.



He went there to register with
Mary, who was pledged to be
married to him and was expecting
a child.



Joseph and Mary had to go to
Bethlehem in Judea..

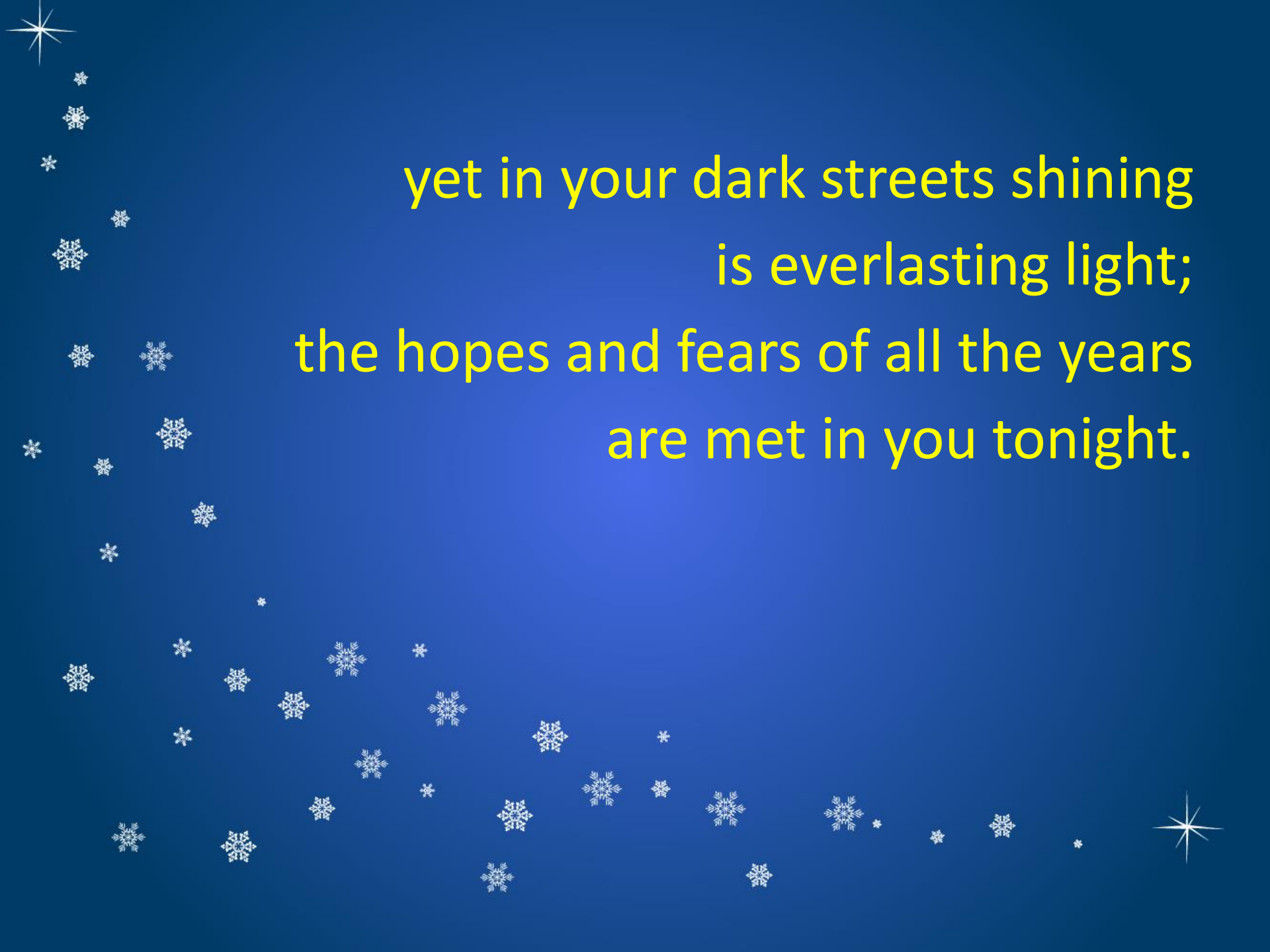




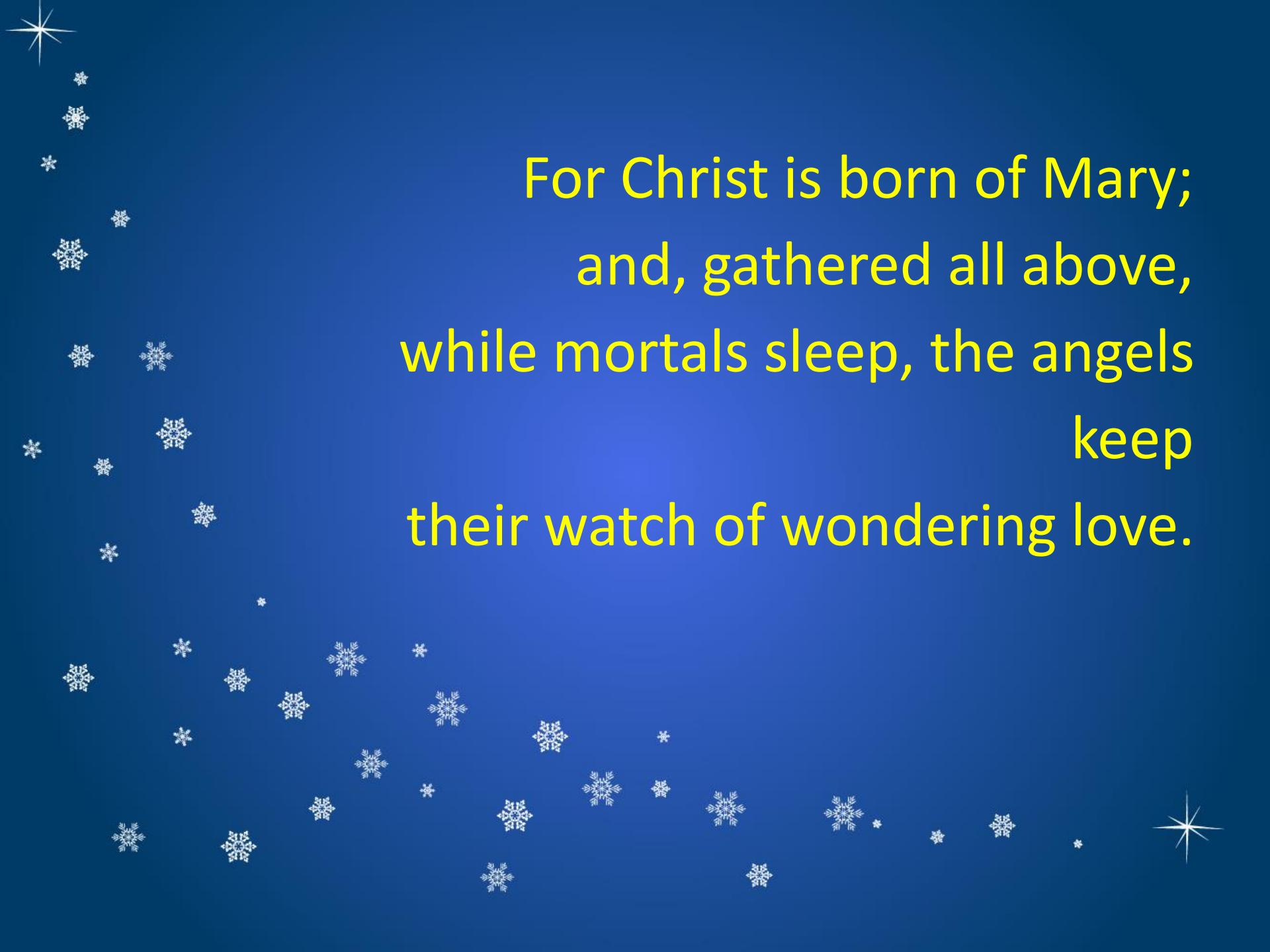
MP 493 - Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:

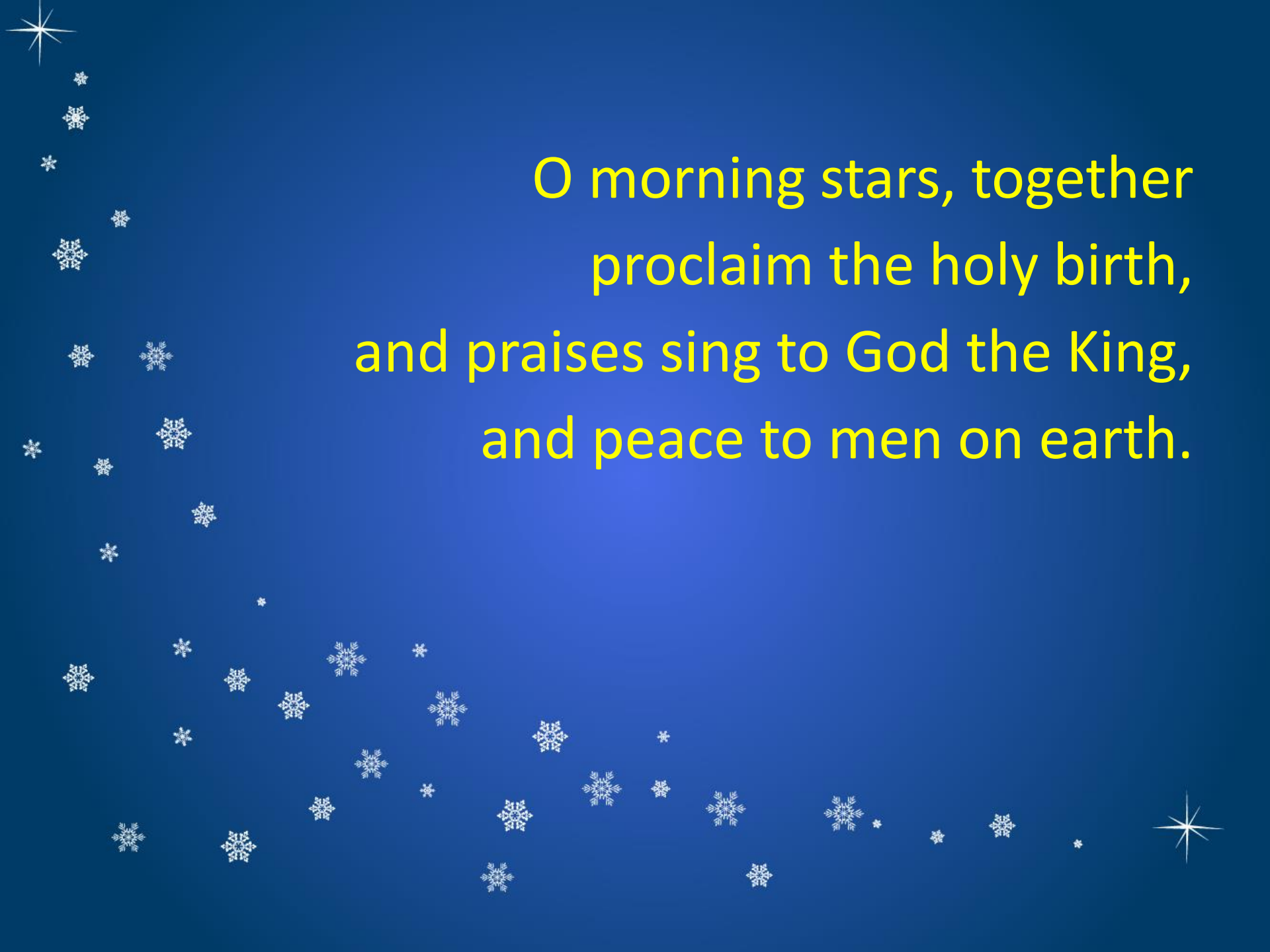


The background is a solid blue gradient. On the left side, there is a vertical line of white snowflakes and stars of varying sizes. A larger, more complex star is at the top left. On the bottom right, there is another large, complex star. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

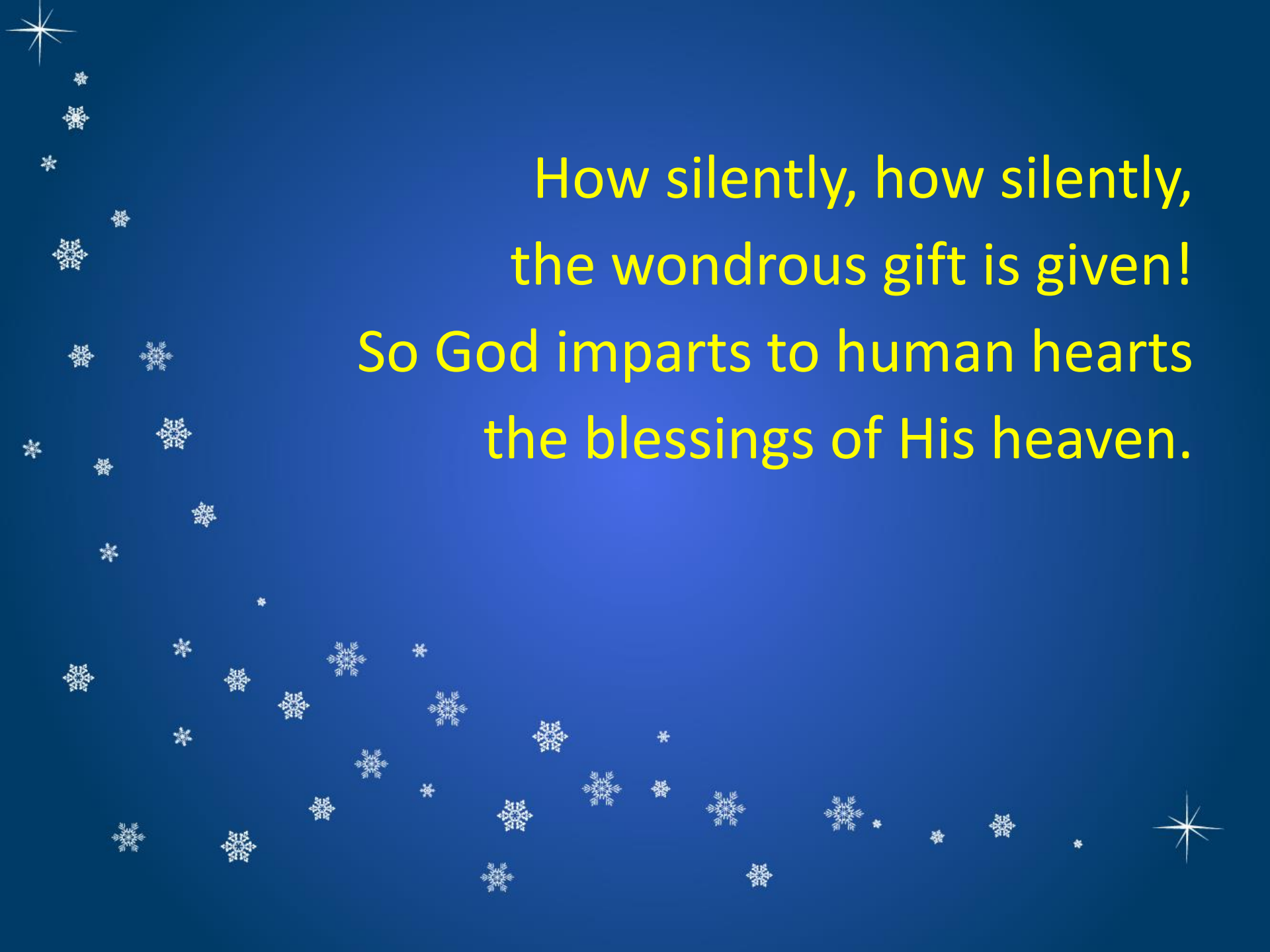
yet in your dark streets shining
is everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.



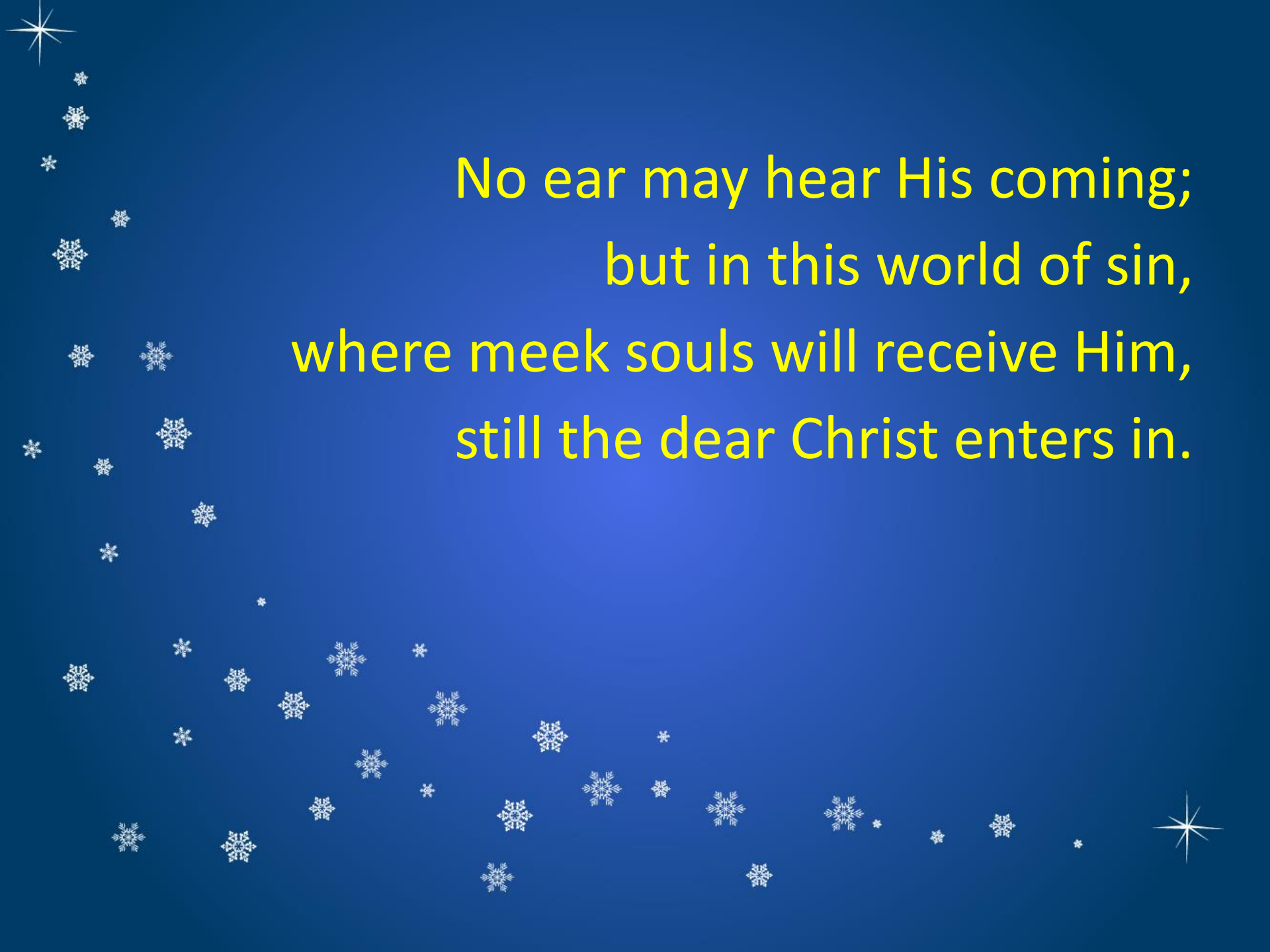
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels
keep
their watch of wondering love.



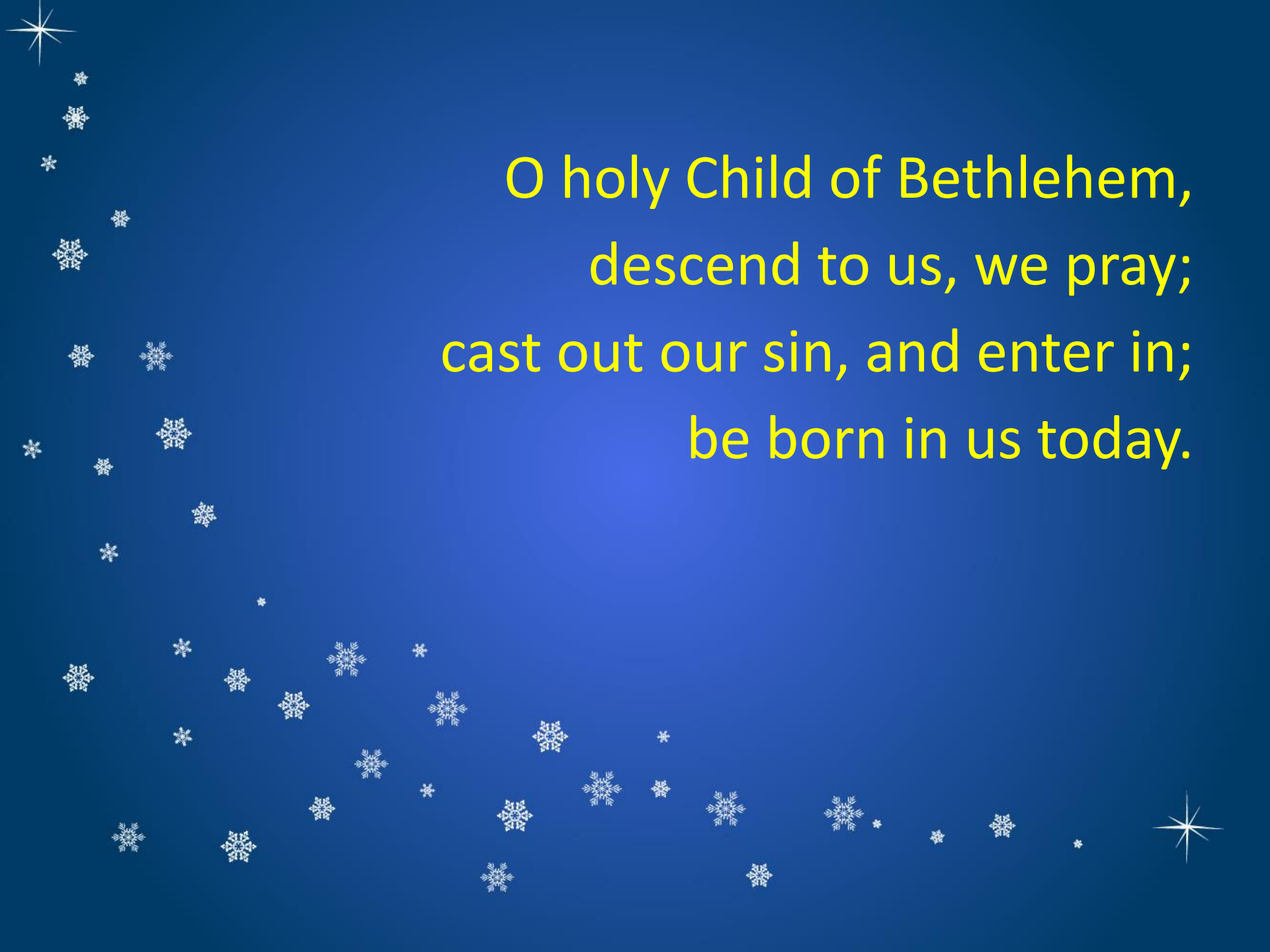
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.




How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.



No ear may hear His coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him,
still the dear Christ enters in.



O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.



We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.

P Brooks

Cracker 5

Please pull Cracker Number Five
now..



Jesus (Reading: Luke 2: 6-7)

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.





Mary gave birth to her first
child, a son. She wrapped
him in strips of cloth and
laid him in a manger.

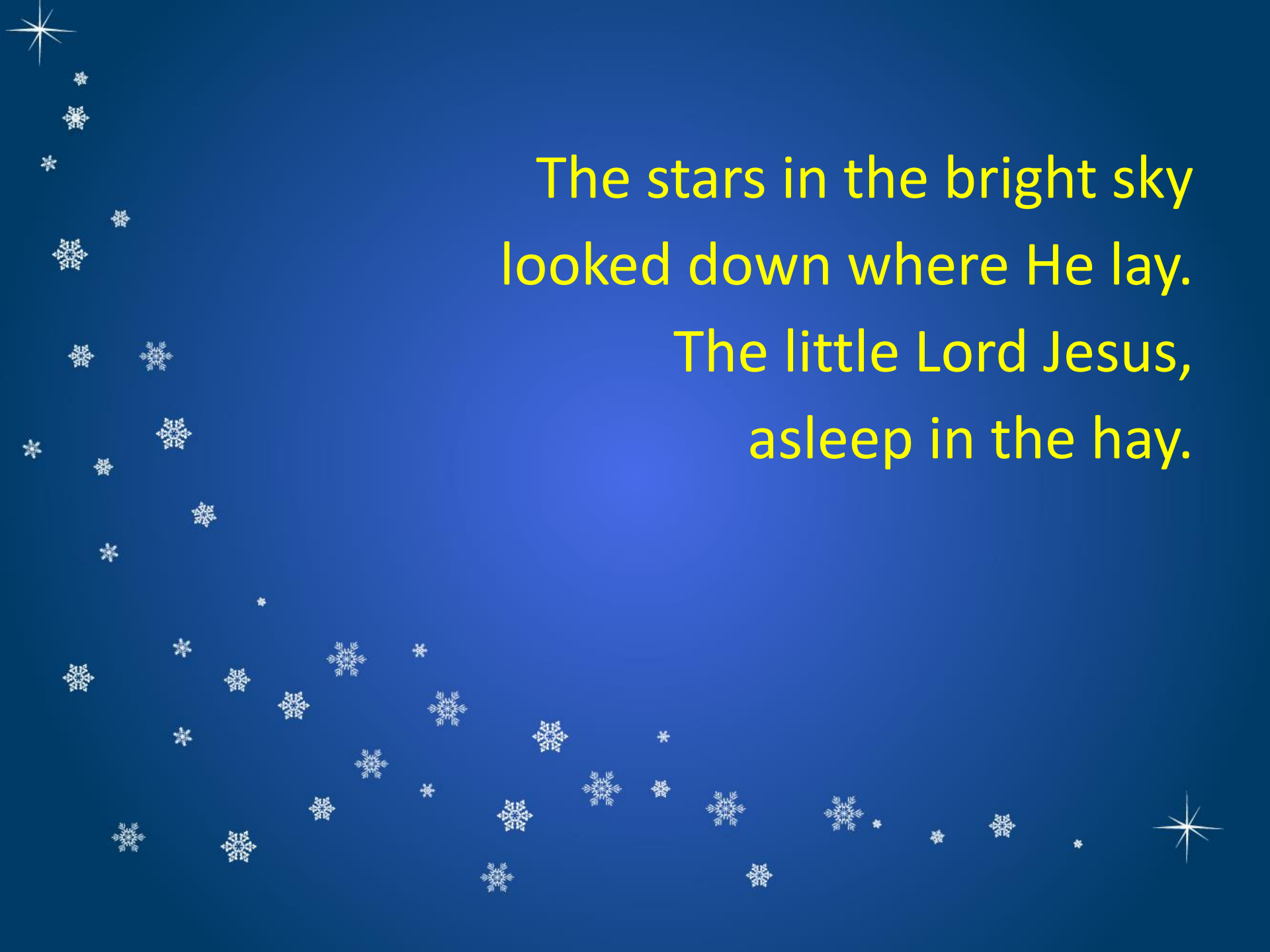




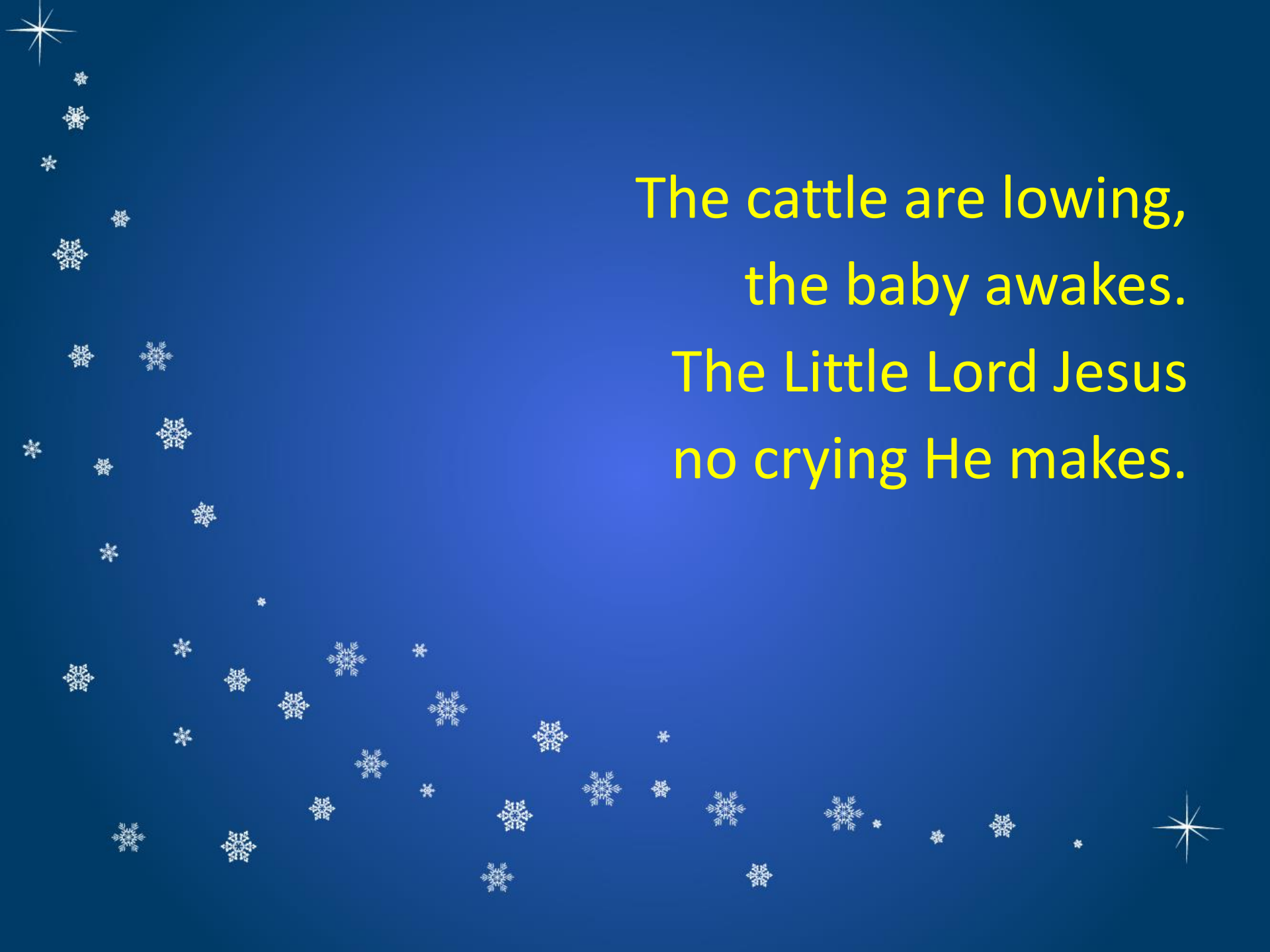
MP 47 - Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus,
lay down his sweet head.







The stars in the bright sky
looked down where He lay.
The little Lord Jesus,
asleep in the hay.




The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes.
The Little Lord Jesus
no crying He makes.

The background is a solid blue color. It is decorated with numerous white snowflakes of various sizes and shapes, scattered across the left and bottom portions of the image. There are also several white stars, including a large, prominent eight-pointed star in the top-left corner and a smaller one in the bottom-right corner.

I love you, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky
And stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

The background is a solid blue gradient. It is decorated with numerous white snowflakes of various sizes and shapes, scattered across the frame. There are also several white stars, including a large, prominent eight-pointed star in the top-left corner and a smaller one in the bottom-right corner.

Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask you to stay
Close by me forever,
and love me, I pray.



Bless all the dear children
in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven
to live with you there.

Anon & JT MacFarlane



Cracker 6

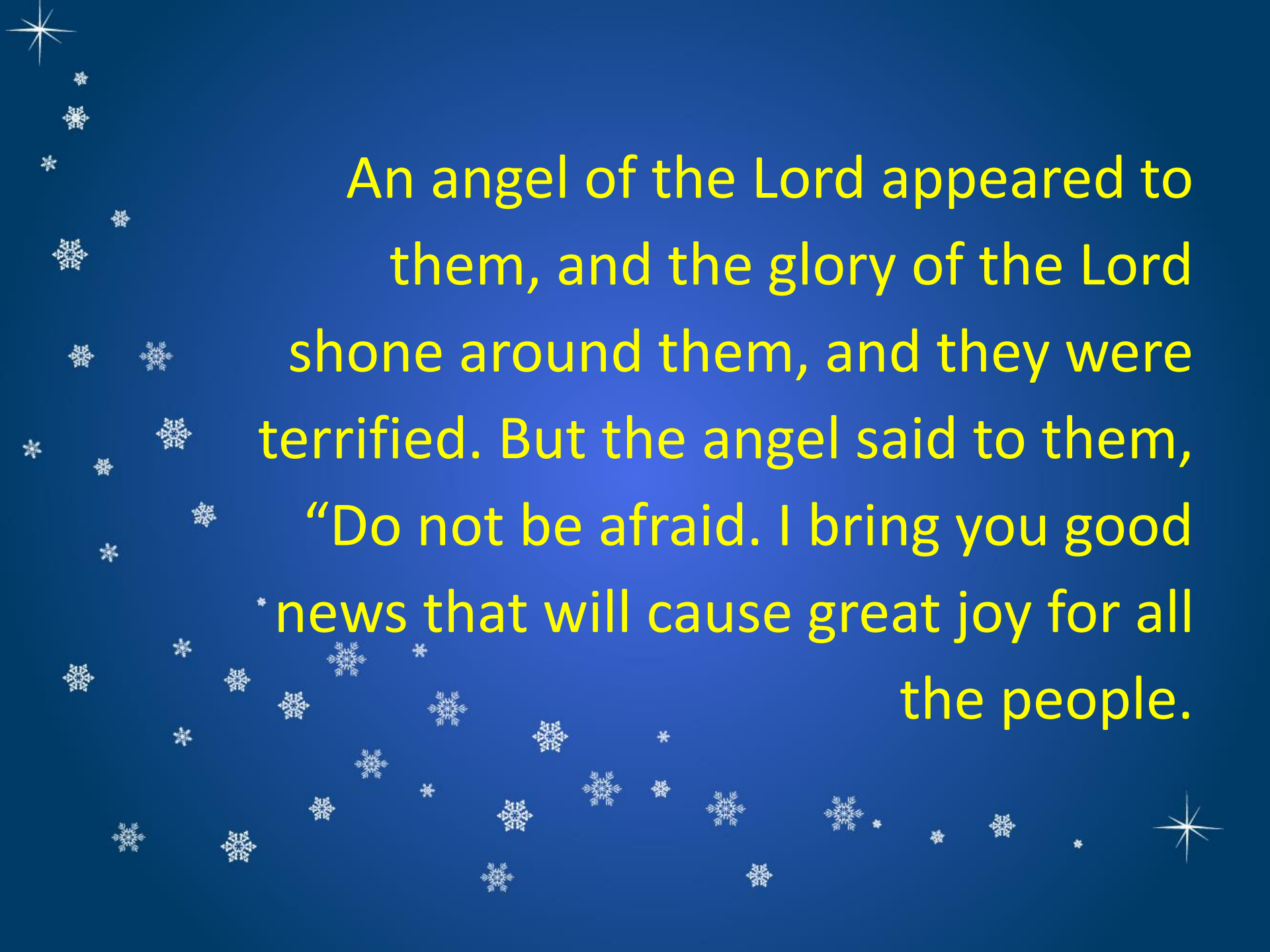
Please pull Crackers Number Six
now..



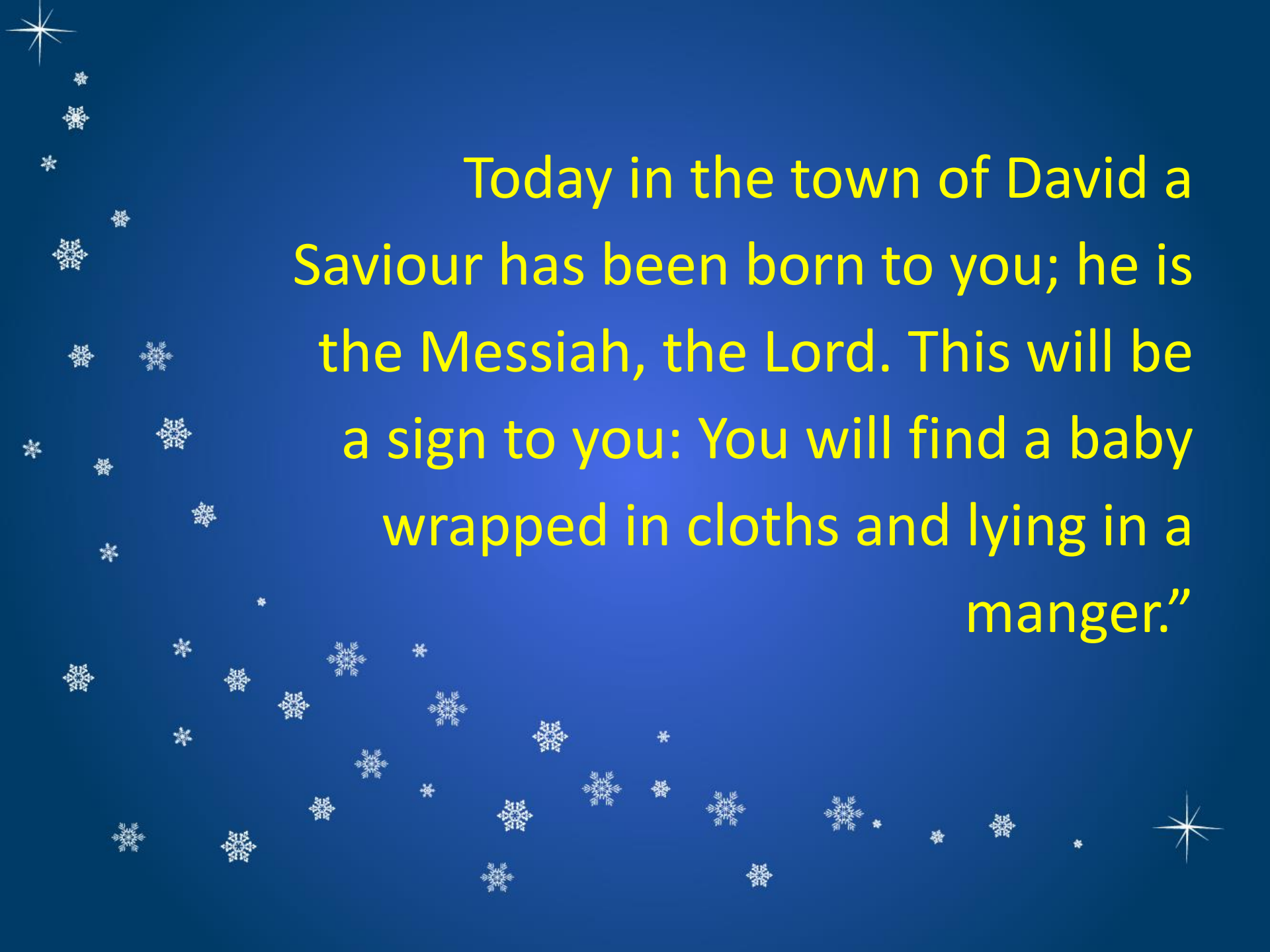


Shepherds (Luke 2:8-14)

And there were shepherds living
out in the fields nearby, keeping
watch over their flocks at night.



An angel of the Lord appeared to
them, and the glory of the Lord
shone around them, and they were
terrified. But the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid. I bring you good
news that will cause great joy for all
the people.



Today in the town of David a
Saviour has been born to you; he is
the Messiah, the Lord. This will be
a sign to you: You will find a baby
wrapped in cloths and lying in a
manger.”

THE SHEPHERDS



That night in the
fields, some
shepherds were
watching their
sheep.





"Don't be afraid!" I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy."

"This very day in King David's
home town a **Saviour** was born
For you. He is **Christ the
Lord.**"




"Let's go to Bethlehem
and see what the Lord
has told us about."

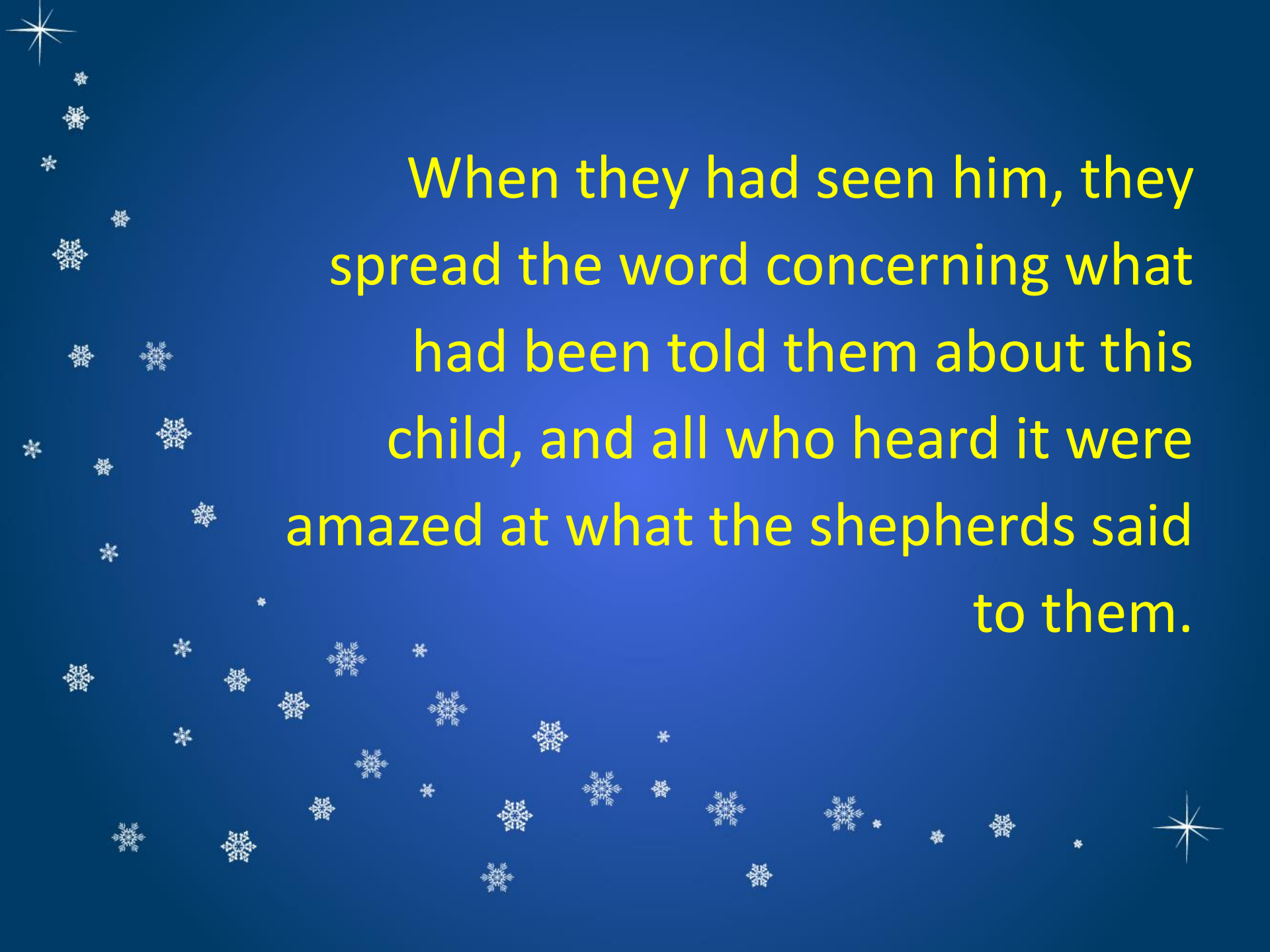




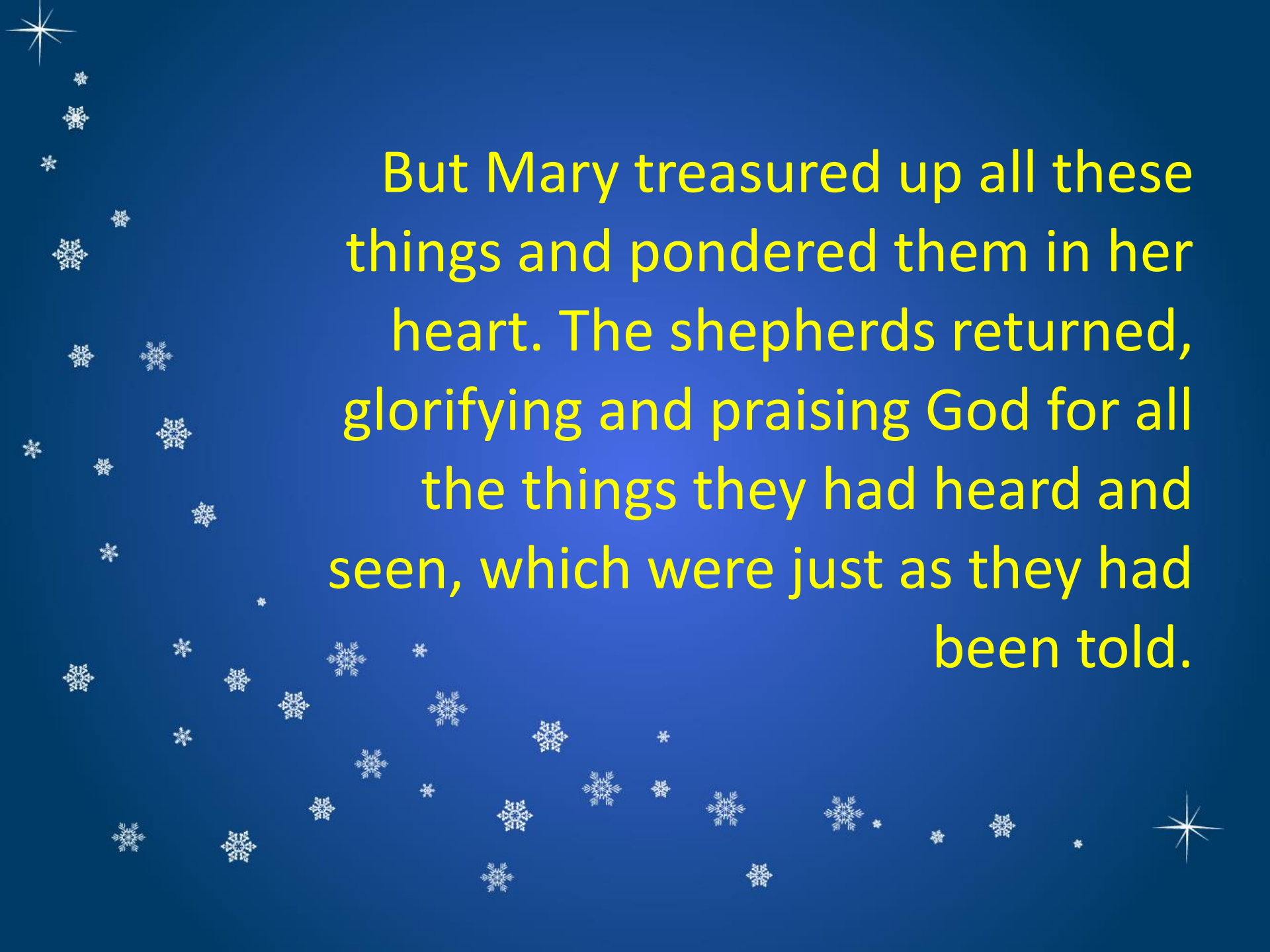
Reading Luke 2: 16-20

So they hurried off and found Mary
and Joseph, and the baby, who was
lying in the manger.





When they had seen him, they
spread the word concerning what
had been told them about this
child, and all who heard it were
amazed at what the shepherds said
to them.




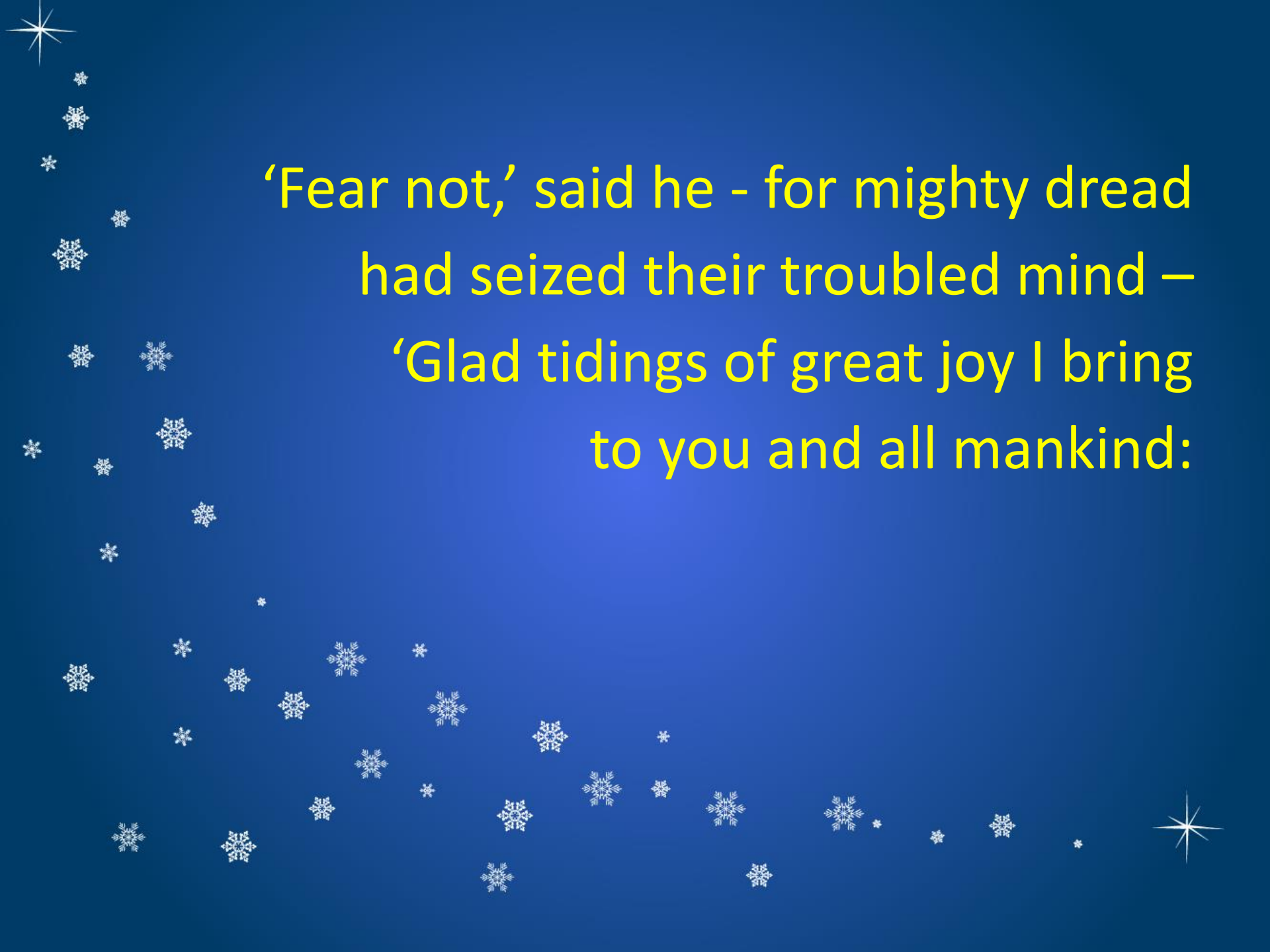
But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



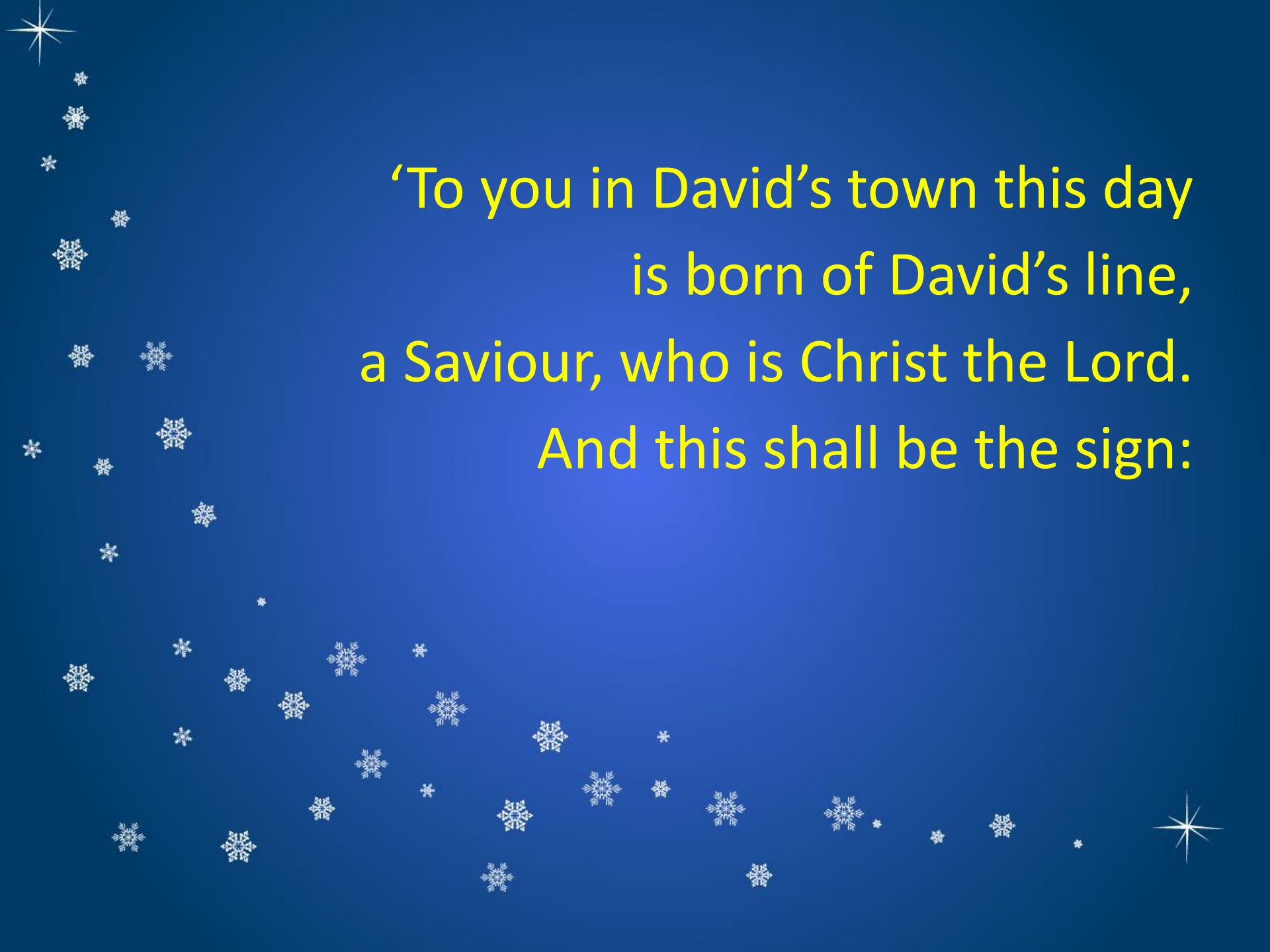
MP 764 - While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

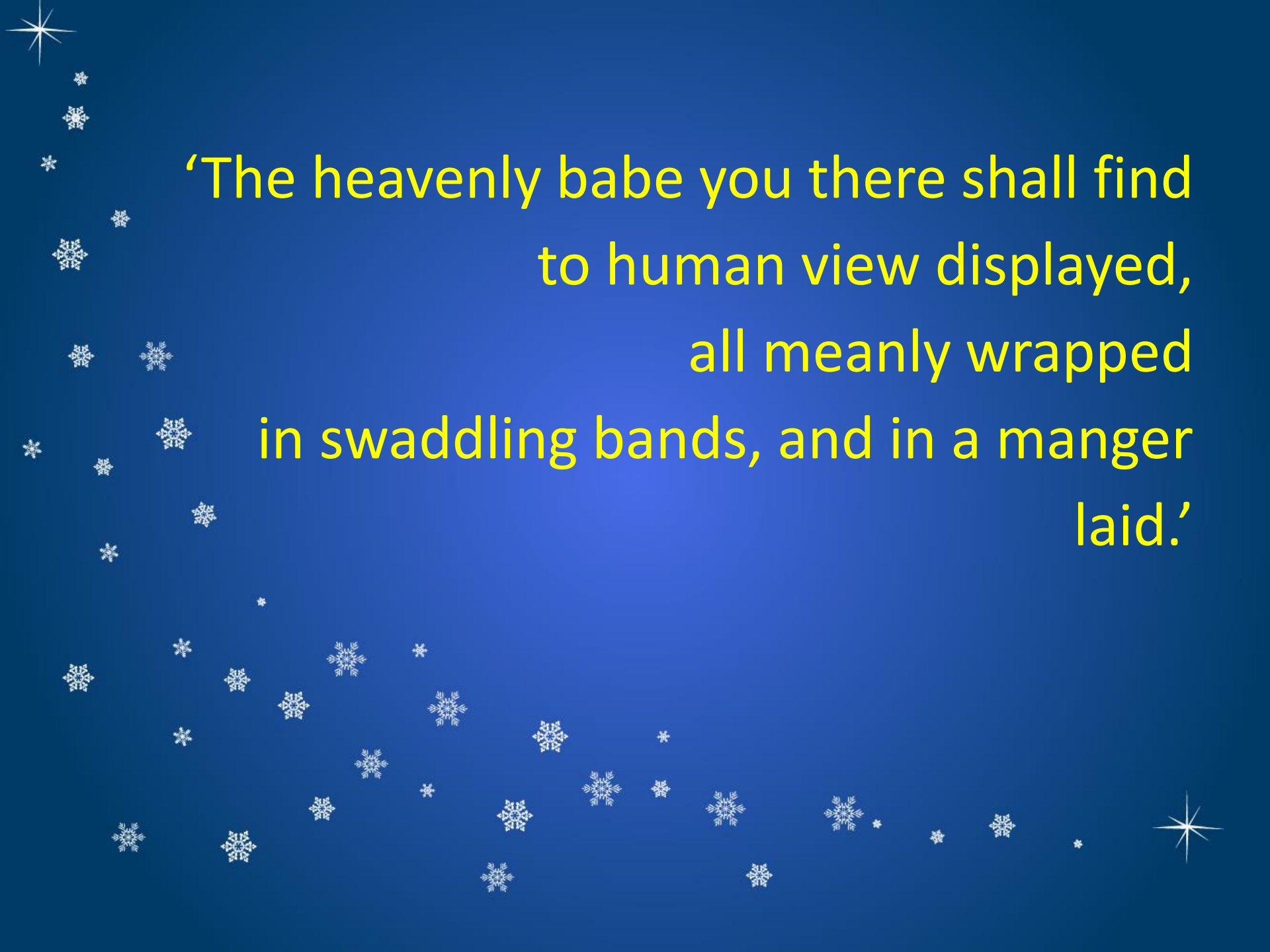




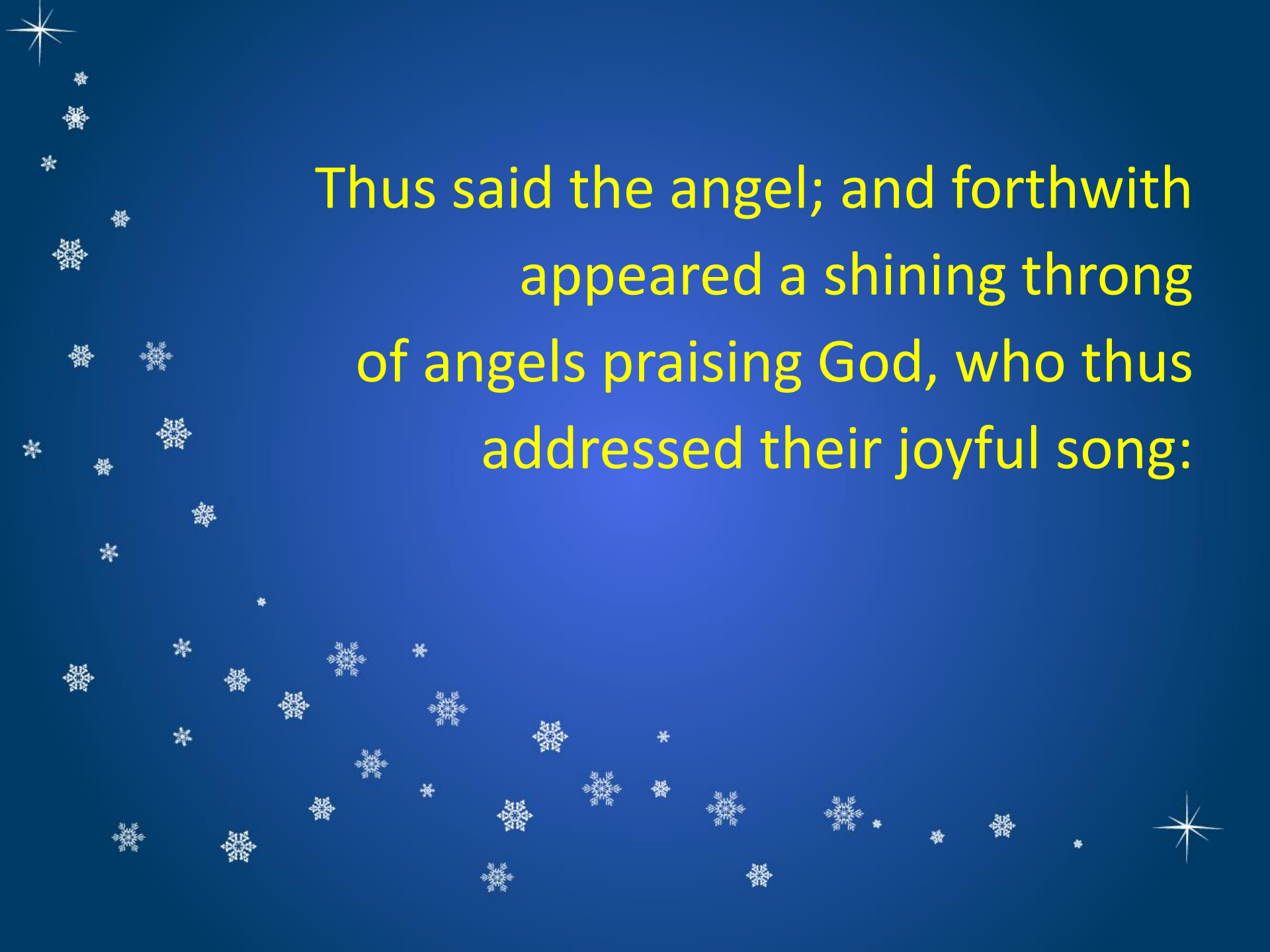
‘Fear not,’ said he - for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind –
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind:



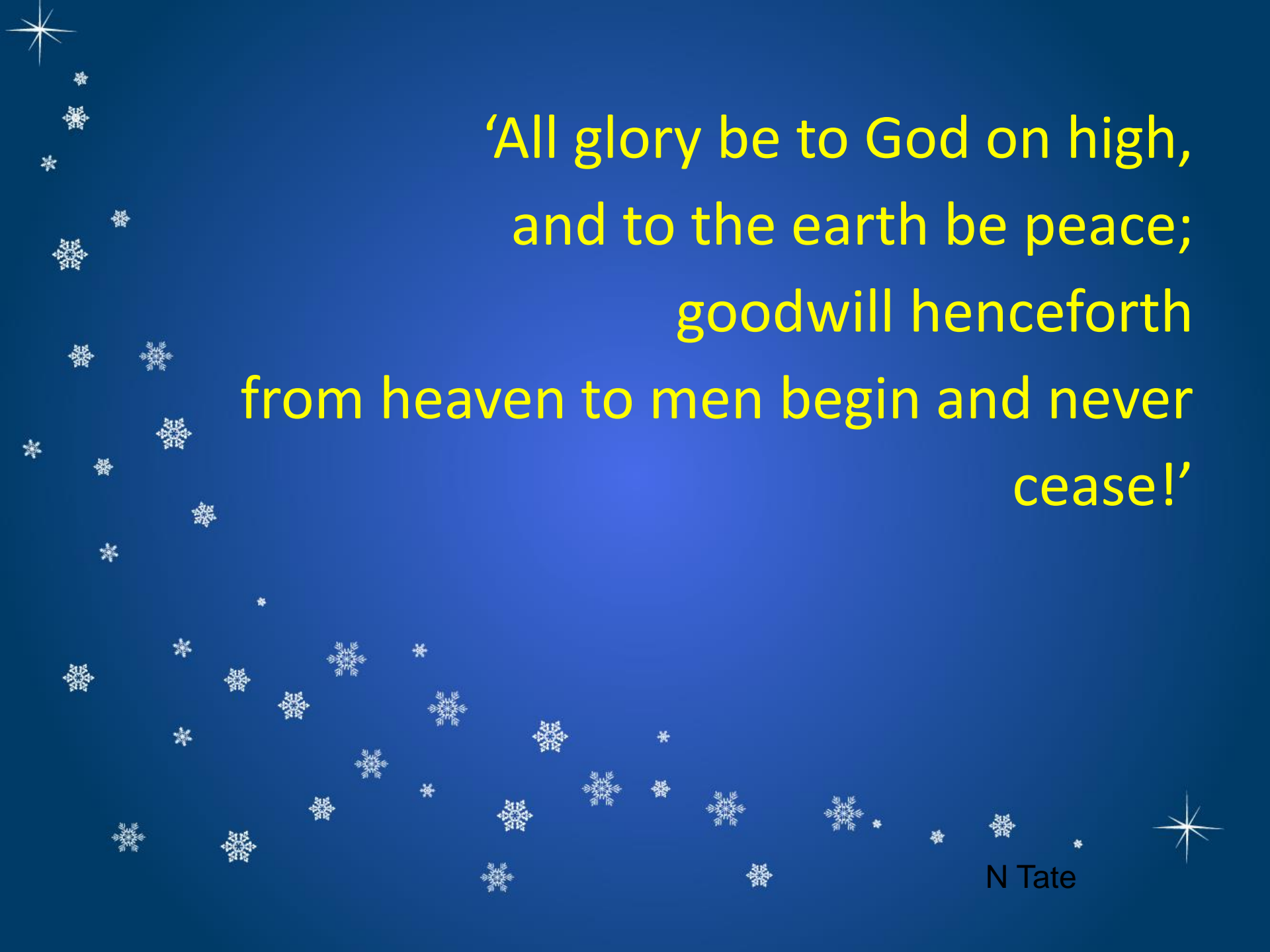
'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line,
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be the sign:



‘The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped
in swaddling bands, and in a manger
laid.’



Thus said the angel; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:



‘All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth
from heaven to men begin and never
cease!’

Cracker 7

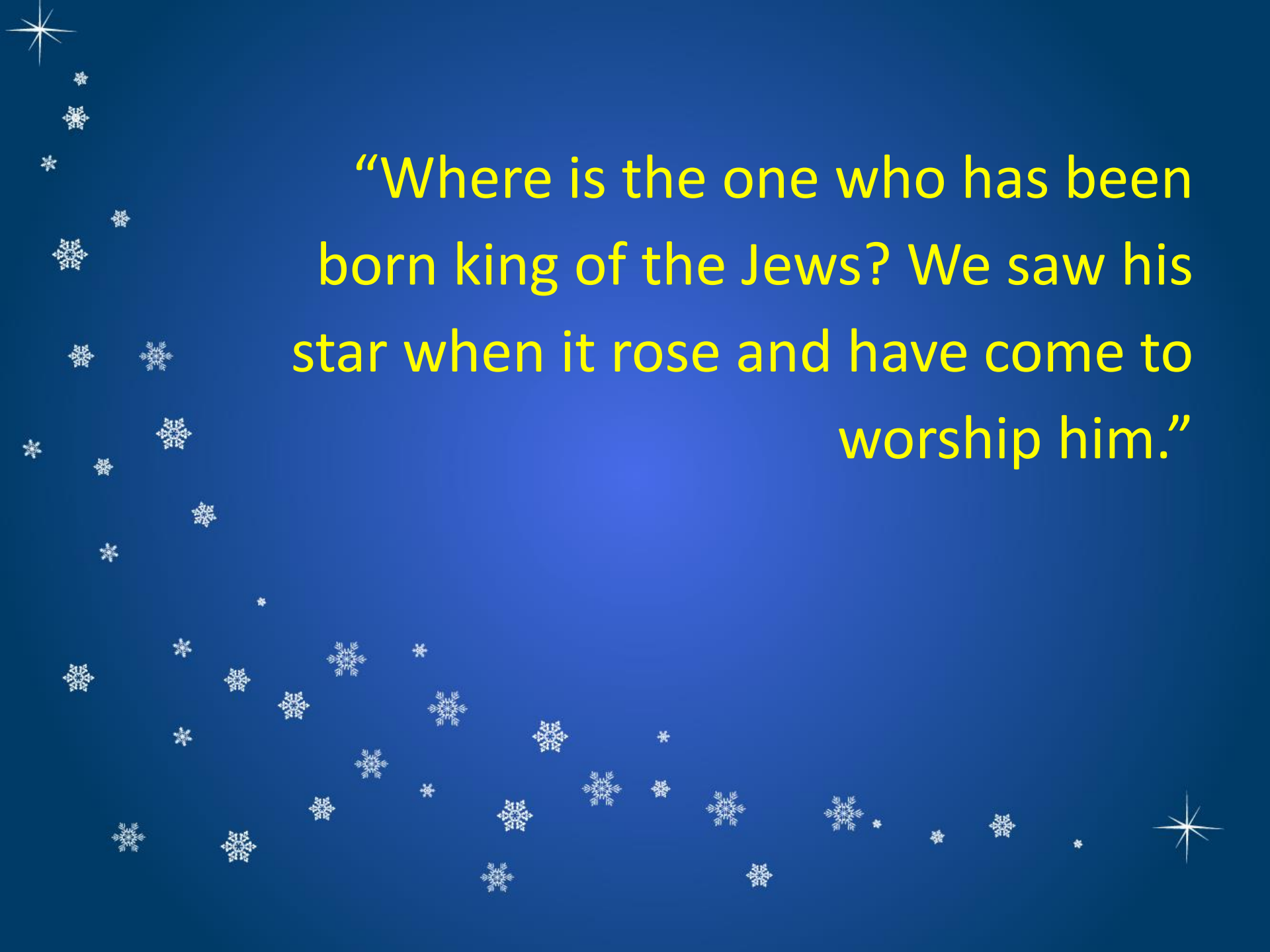
Please pull Crackers Number Seven
now..



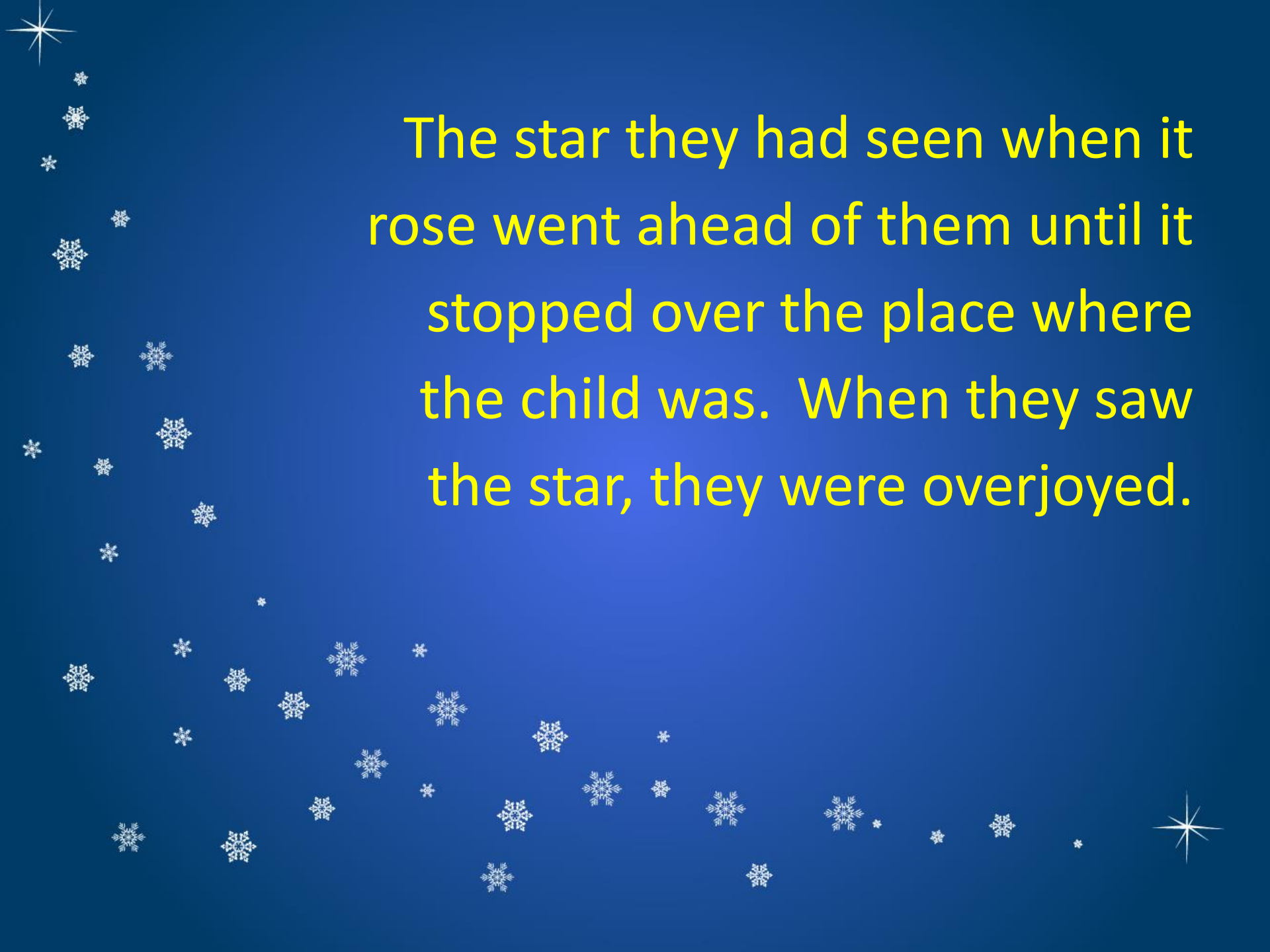


Wise Men (Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11)

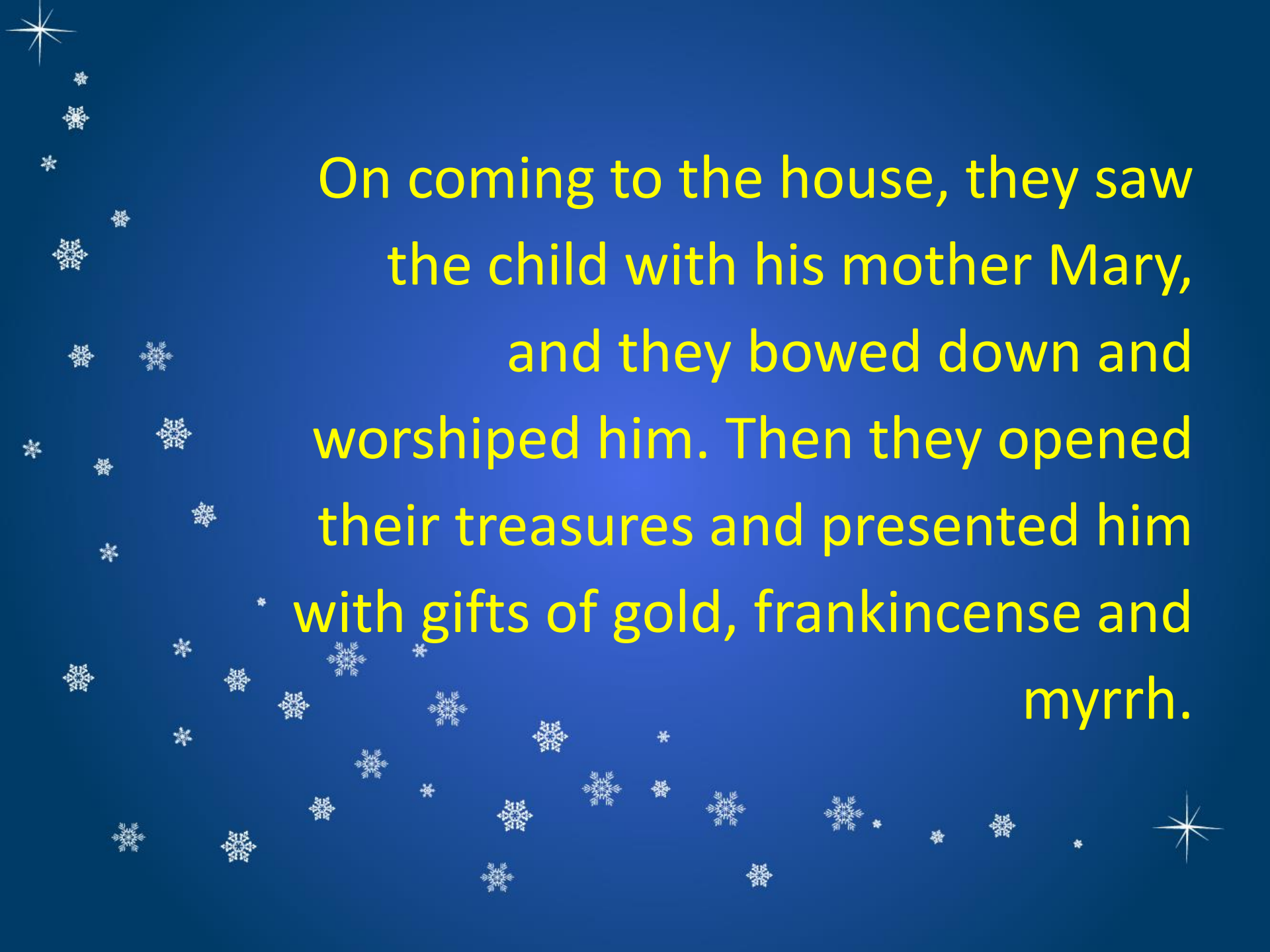
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem
in Judea, during the time of King
Herod, wise men from the east
came to Jerusalem and asked,



“Where is the one who has been
born king of the Jews? We saw his
star when it rose and have come to
worship him.”



The star they had seen when it
rose went ahead of them until it
stopped over the place where
the child was. When they saw
the star, they were overjoyed.



On coming to the house, they saw
the child with his mother Mary,
and they bowed down and
worshiped him. Then they opened
their treasures and presented him
with gifts of gold, frankincense and
myrrh.

Some wise men from
the East had followed a
star looking for the new
born King.





The star the wise men had seen in the east
went ahead of them until it stopped over
the stable.

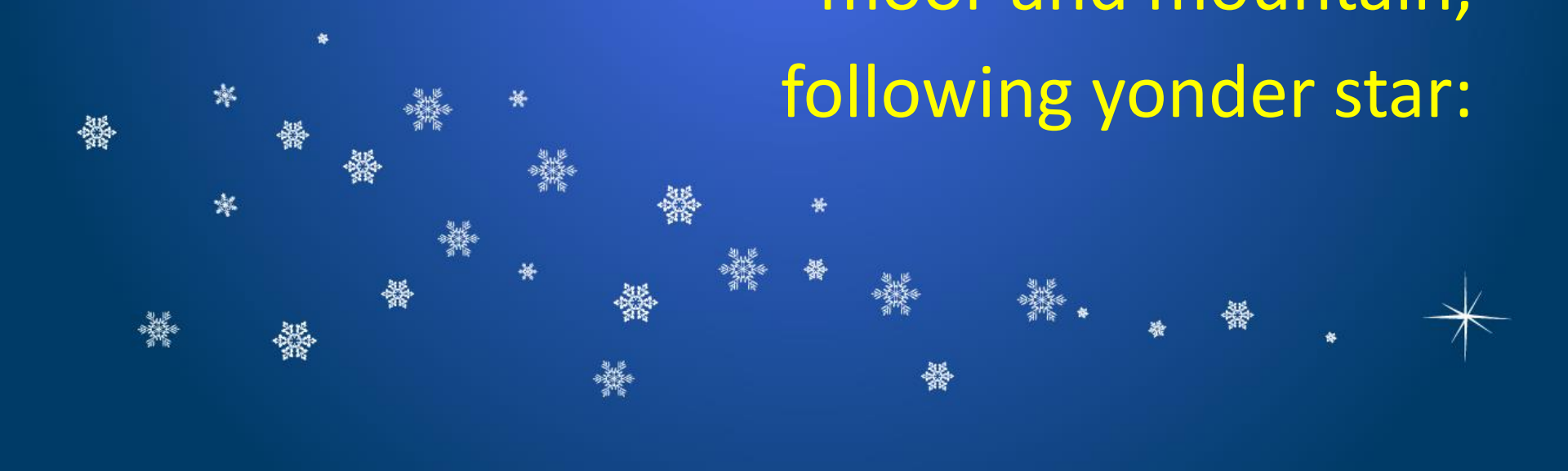
THE WISE MEN

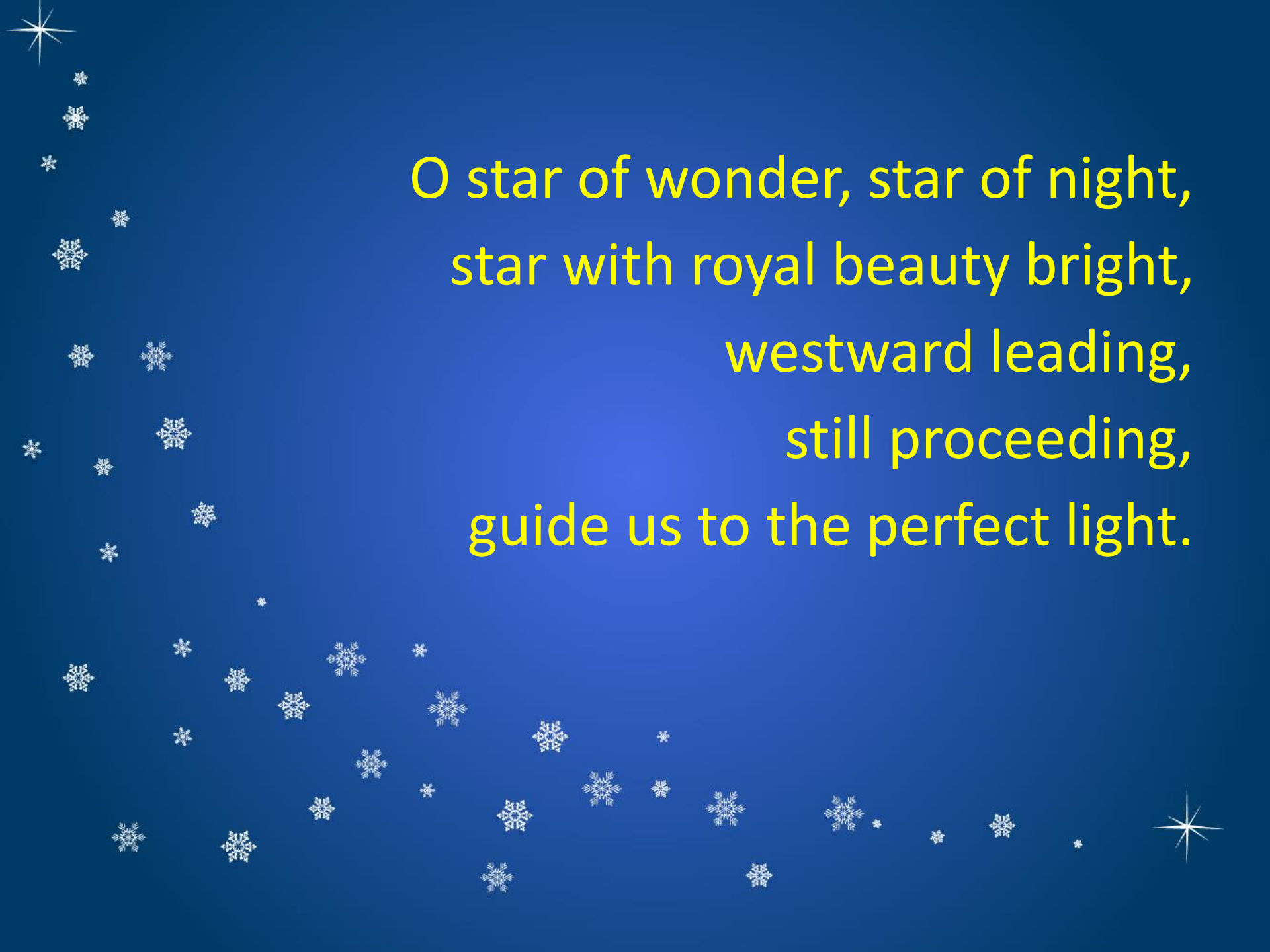





MP 40 - We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we travel afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

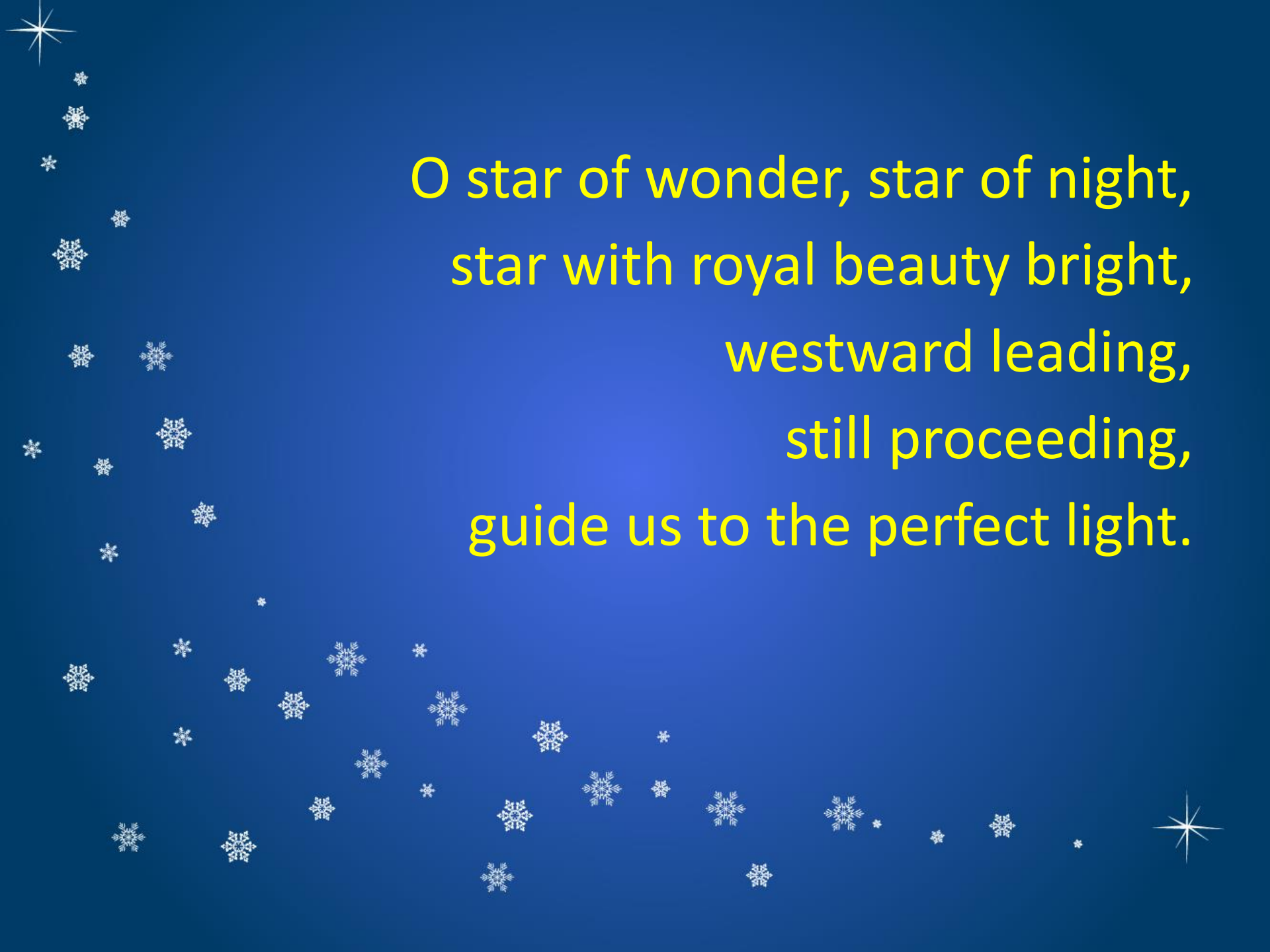





O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.




Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown Him again:
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.



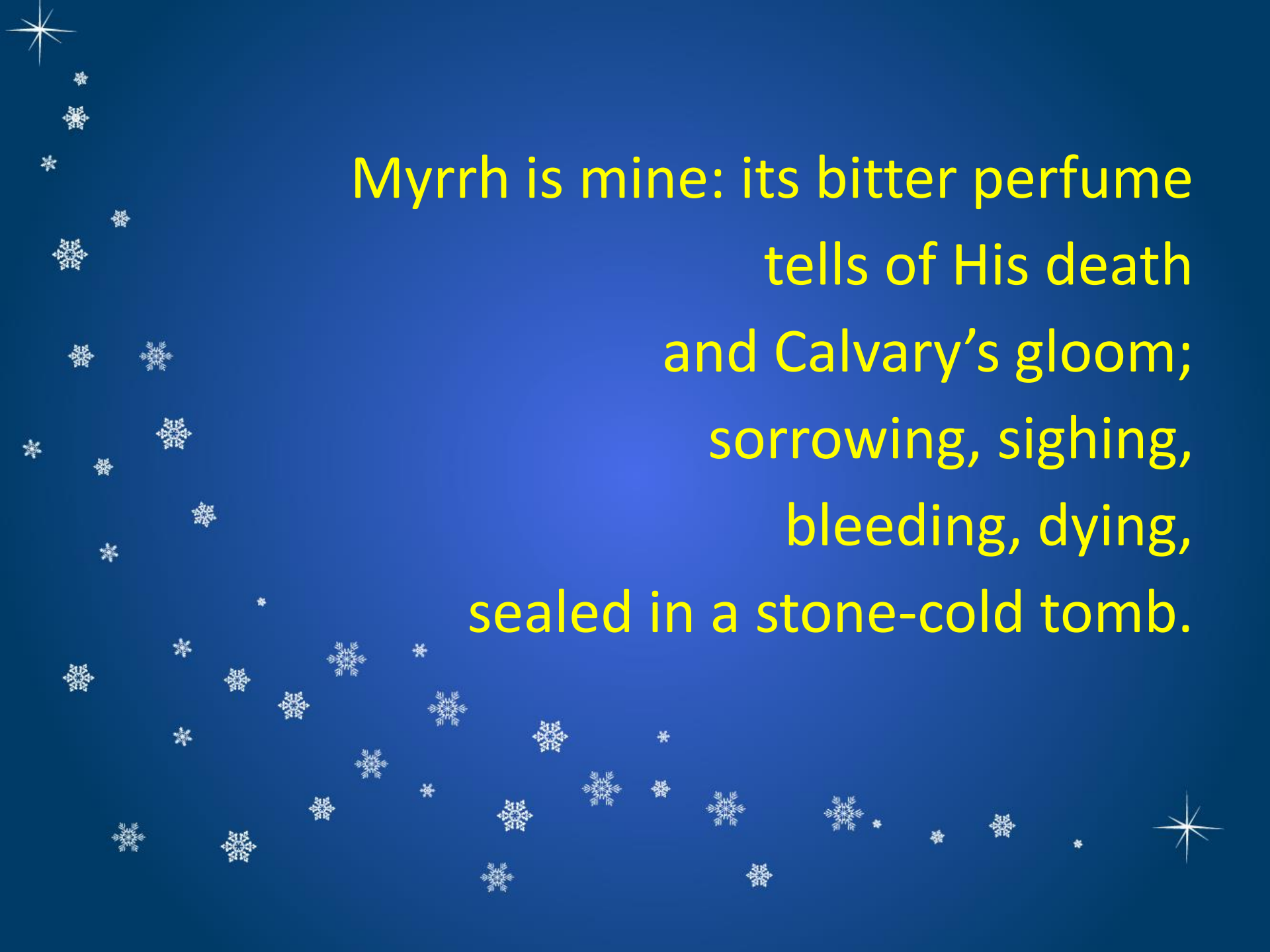
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.



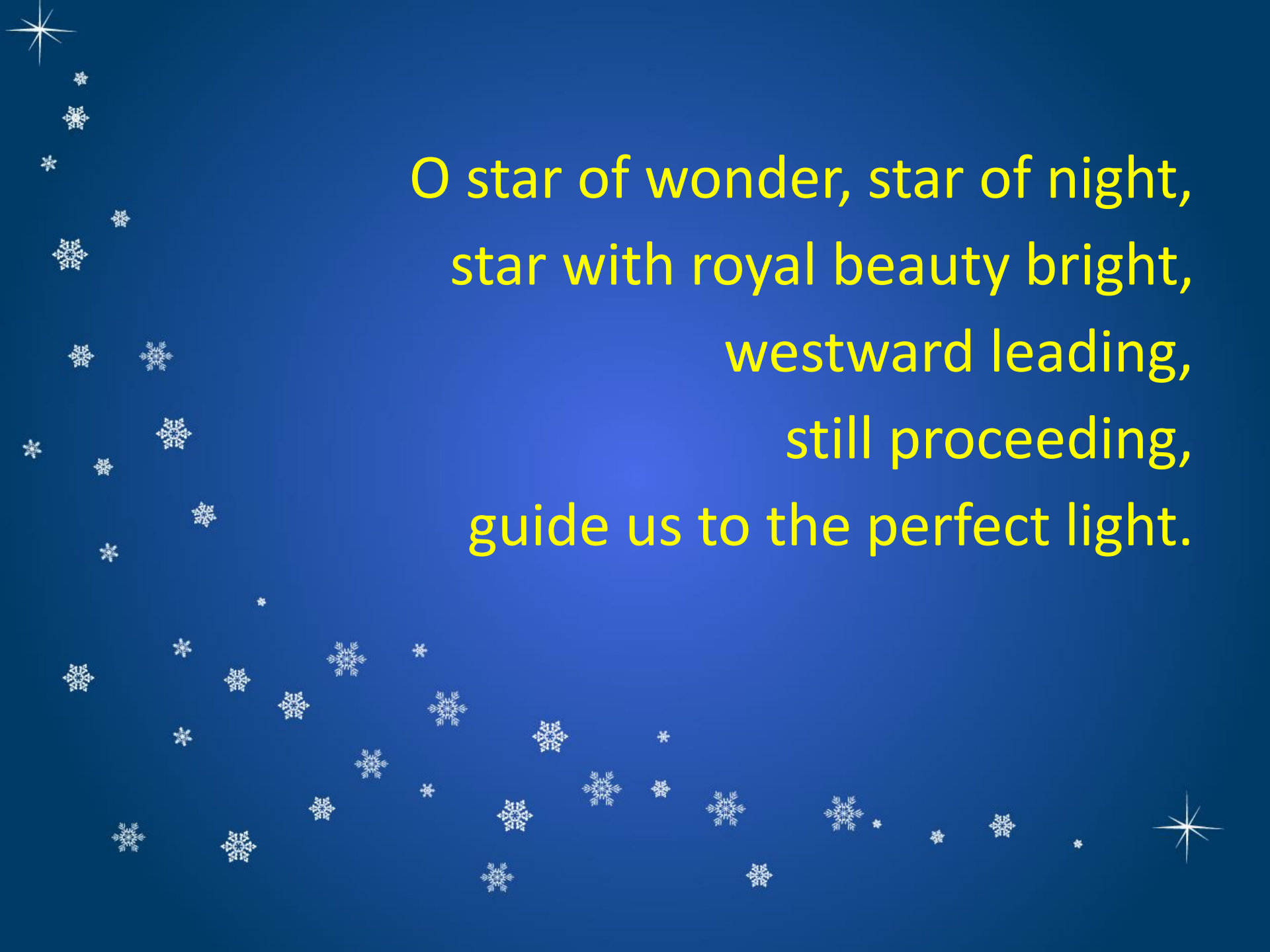
Frankincense for Jesus have I,
God on earth yet Priest on high;
prayer and praising
all men raising:
worship is earth's reply.




O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.




Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
tells of His death
and Calvary's gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in a stone-cold tomb.



O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.



Glorious now,
behold Him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heaven sings out, 'Alleluia!',
'Amen!' the earth replies.



O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.

Christmas Crackers





NEW HER BABY
WAS THE SON
OF GOD




WAS TOLD THAT
JESUS WAS
BORN TO BE
THE SAVIOUR



WERE *EXCITED* BECAUSE
THIS BABY WAS *LORD*



***WORSHIPPED
HIM AS THEIR
NEW KING***



Before we open the next
Cracker we will be like the Wise
Men and give our gifts to God
with our offering.



*Let
Us
Pray*

Cracker 8

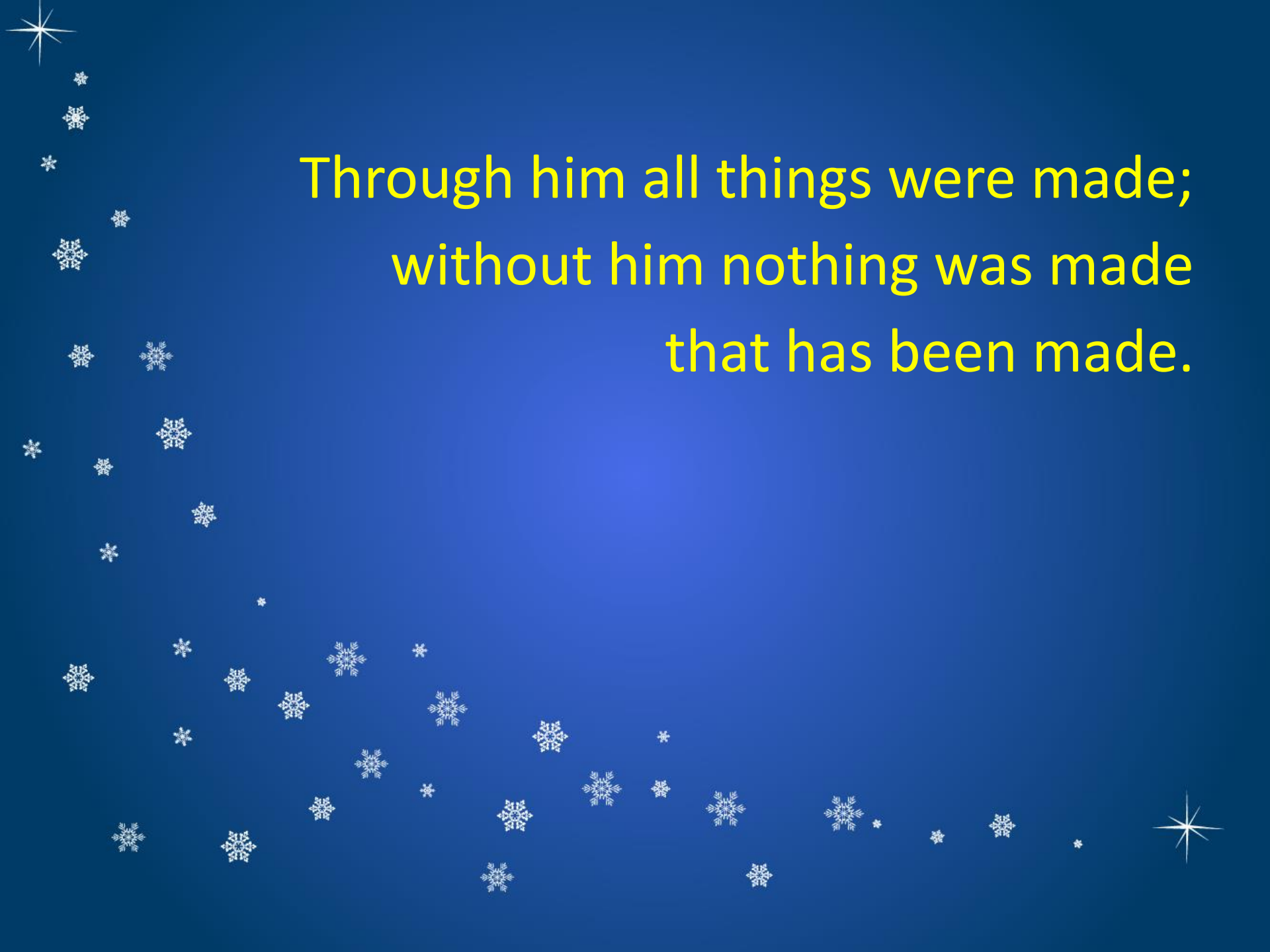
Please pull all the other Crackers
now..



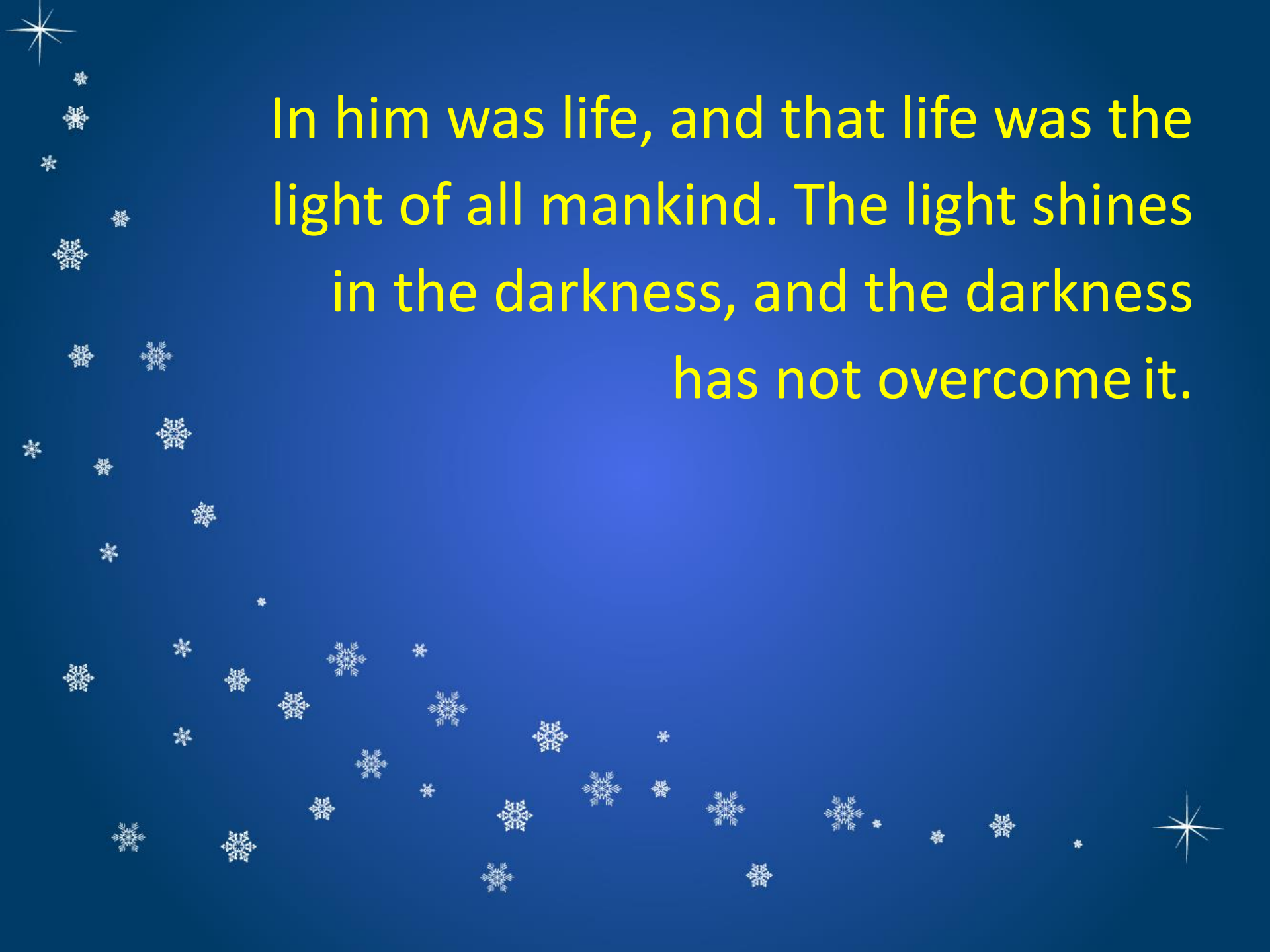
Jesus (John 1 – 1-5, 12)



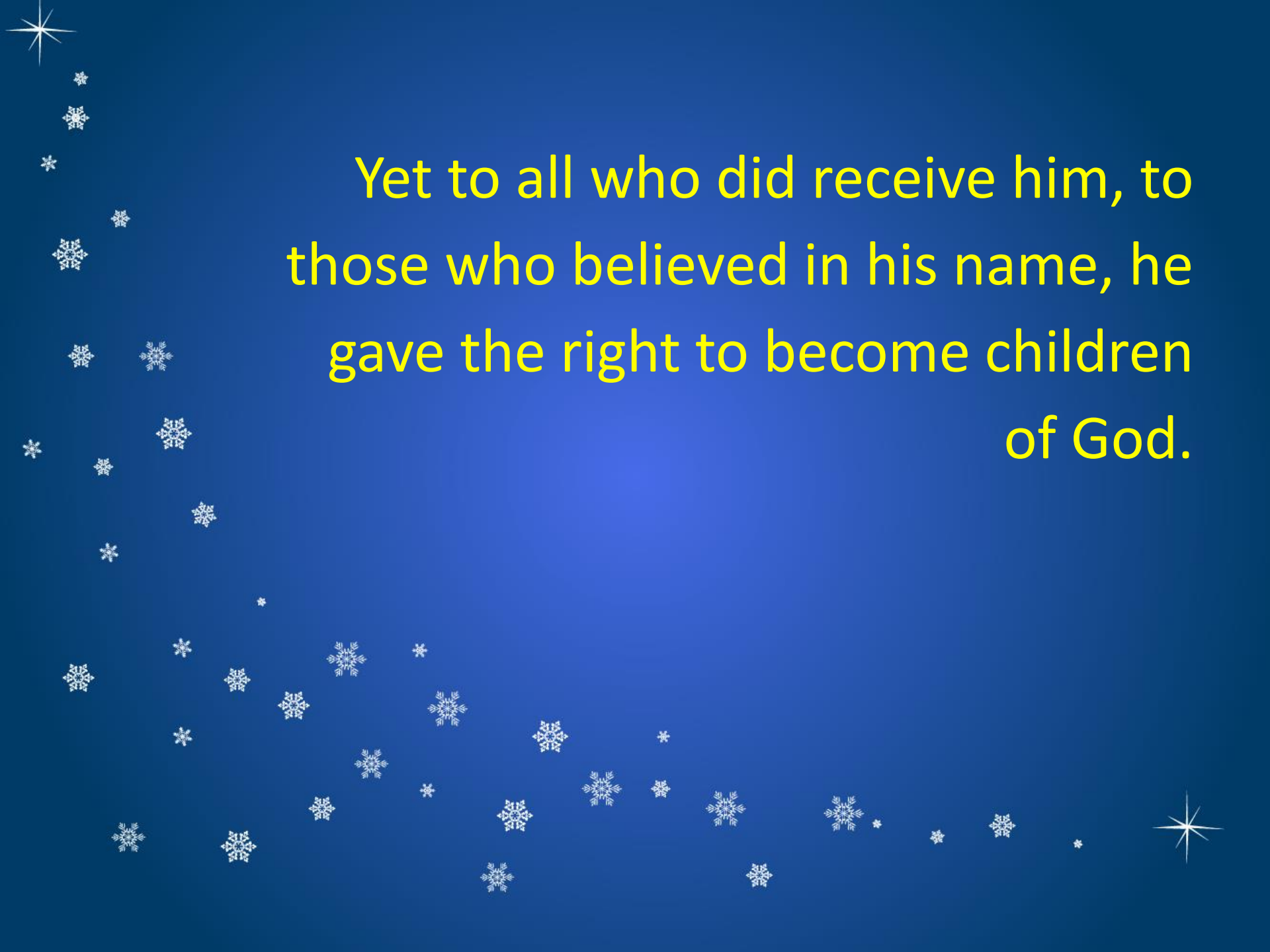
In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was with
God in the beginning.

The background is a solid blue gradient, darker at the top and bottom edges. It is decorated with numerous white snowflakes of various sizes and shapes, scattered across the frame. There are also several white starburst or star-like shapes, with the largest ones located in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made
that has been made.

The background is a solid blue gradient. It is decorated with numerous white snowflakes of various sizes and shapes, scattered across the entire surface. There are also several white starburst or star-like shapes, with one prominent one in the top-left corner and another in the bottom-right corner.

In him was life, and that life was the
light of all mankind. The light shines
in the darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it.



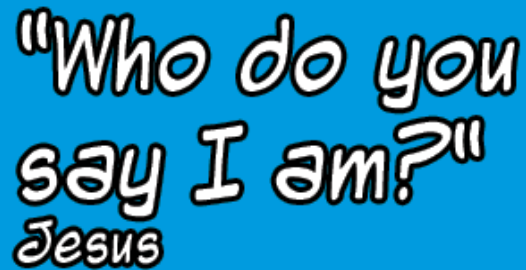
Yet to all who did receive him, to
those who believed in his name, he
gave the right to become children
of God.

Baby Jesus born for you





**WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?**






**"Who do you
say I am?"**
Jesus




MP 451 - Love came down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.





Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus:
but wherewith for sacred sign?



Love shall be our token,
love be yours
and love be mine,
love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.






Let's sing the benediction together.

May God's blessing
surround you each day,
as you trust Him
and walk in His way.

May His presence within
guard and keep you from sin,
go in peace, go in joy, go in love.





JOY
HOPE
LOVE
PEACE

Happy Christmas to all.

Happy Christmas

