

The Grapevine

*I am the vine; you are the
branches.*
His Blessings Continue 1905-2010

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
(773) 561-9159

1244 W. Thorndale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660

The Reverends Charles Aufdenkampe and Paul Krause

www.bethanyedgewater.org

Worship Service: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study 11 a.m.

December, 2011



When our Lord, Jesus was born, His people were waiting for a Messiah descended from King David to come and aid them and their nation. Many expected the Messiah to be a powerful, earthly king or military leader who would free them from the Romans. The name Jesus means "the Lord saves." Rather than saving the Jews from the Romans, He saved all people from their sins, for all ages, and all times.

As our King, He is our good leader having authority over us but also a responsibility to take care of us. I thank Him for caring for you and especially for myself during November and that "little surgery" I had which was at times, painful.

Christ the Child of Bethlehem can be trusted.

May the Christ Child bless each one of us during these Advent days which lead us to Christmas. We thank each one of you for your aid during the old year, especially Pastor Krause, and his wife Karen! Merry Christmas as we near the Manager!

Pastor Charles Aufdenkampe

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT (Richard Tank)

Things have been moving fast at Bethany and, I believe, moving well and in the right direction. After a year of no rent since the collapse of BeHIV we are once again receiving rent, this time from WKM, (Worldlife Kingdom Ministries). After finding that the gymnasium was unsatisfactory for their services they have moved to an afternoon service in the sanctuary. However, they do meet in the gym in the morning for prayers and are using the dining room for Sunday school. They use the sanctuary at times during the week as well.

We appreciate the ministry provided by Pastor Aufdenkampe and assisted by Pastor Krause. Both men have guided us to rethink the way we operate and to run a tighter ship, so to speak. Pastor Aufdenkampe is holding Bible class on Wednesday afternoons and sometime after January 1, 2012 he will also hold a Sunday morning Bible class if there is enough interest. Pastor Krause will be leading us in worship and preaching about twice a month.

I want to thank the Board of Trustees for all the work that they have been doing. Board members are: Barbara Rupholdt, Marvin Marx, Barbara Littwin, and Michael Haisler. The trustees have interviewed and contracted with fire alarm, roofing, and electrical contractors to do the necessary upgrades and repairs. Also, after all these years, most of the mattresses are now out of the handball courts. Check the information submitted by the trustees for more details.

Edgewater has long been a magnet for immigrants and increasingly so in recent years. Bethany has thought about how to respond to this mission opportunity. However, the question has been which ethnic group(s) should we reach out to since there are so many different ones here. We were recently approached by the pastor of a group of Lutheran Ethiopians. The Lutheran church in Ethiopia goes by the name Evangelical Church, Mekane Yesu. This pastor is looking to affiliate with the LCMS and wants to leave the ELCA church where they currently worship because of doctrinal differences. They would like to worship in the sanctuary but that is being used in the afternoon by WKM. We will be discussing the use of the lounge instead. This has an altar, which they need. The Pastor, Rev. Dufera will be visiting with his officers to work out a plan.

We will again be hosting the Edgewater Singers for their Christmas concert to be held on December 10th at 7:30 p.m.

In order to accommodate WKM so they can start their service at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary Bethany has moved its Sunday morning service to 9:30 a.m. This does not appear to have affected attendance. To ease this change which began on November 6th we have held a brunch after the service. Thanks to all those who have provided food and assisted in setting up this brunch. After November the brunch will take place on a more limited basis.

I wish all of our members a very blessed and happy Christmas as they celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and wish them a happy, healthy, and prosperous year 2012. The members of Bethany, along with me, wish the same to all of our friends.

THE BOARD OF STEWARDS (Richard Tank)

The November special collection for the benefit of *Care for Real* and *Chicago Uptown Ministries* has come to \$391.00. This amount and any additional envelopes submitted on Dec. 4th will be divided equally between these two organizations.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MUSIC DIRECTOR (Marvin Marx)

CHOIR.

I Wonder as I Wander Out under the Sky
How Jesus the Savior Did Come for to Die
See Amid the Winter Snow Born for Us on Earth Below

See the Lamb of God Appears Hail Thou Ever Blessed Morn

Hail Redemption's Happy Dawn

Then.....

Sing with Joy Glad Voices Lift! Honor God the Highest Gift

Then

Shepherds Awake the Angels Sing, oh Hear the Joyous News They Bring

They Angels Sang ..

The First Noel, The Angels did Sing to Certain Poor Shepherds in Fields.....

We are the Shepherds in Edgewater in Chicago, so we need to.....

Lay Aside each Earthly Thing and with your Heart as Offering

Come Worship Now the Infant King

Tis Love That's Born Tonight

A wonderful mixture of some of the lines from some of my favorite Christmas music. I have a couple problems that I would like to share with you about this "Christmas Music". Now I am starting to sound like Andy Rooney, one of my heroes. The first problem is the music is sung for only a short period of time every year. If I had my way I would have Christmas Music Year Round. But that wouldn't work. We start working on the Christmas Music for Bethany shortly after Thanksgiving, which was also the time the radio stations start playing White Christmas and Grandma got run over by a Reindeer". But now, as Michael Haisler pointed out to me the other day, he heard Christmas Carols on the radio after Halloween. That is just a little too early, or late, depending on how you look at it.

The season is so short that, for the radio stations, immediately after Christmas Day the Christmas music is tucked away until Halloween of next year. At least in the church we continue for another week before we stop the music. The other complaint I have is that there is so much music. It is difficult to choose and select the best music to sing, which is the next problem, it is all so good. So not only is there a bounty of music the bounty is beautiful. There are some songs/hymns/carols that I like more than others, but I don't know of a real Christmas carol or song that I didn't like. This is limited to the religious oriented music, not the secular, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Mrs. Klaus," or was it Santa Claus, or both??

All that being said, we will have the Choir sing many familiar selections that we all know and love, and we will also sneak in one or two new ones that I am sure that you will enjoy.

The Choir is on tap for singing every Sunday in December, and of course, Christmas Eve. This year's calendar has Christmas Day and New Year's Day on Sundays. Both Christmas Eve and Day will be weekend days this year and because of that I am sure many people will take the Friday before or the Monday after off, or more likely both. It is that time of the year when you take time to enjoy the season and it is more fun to do it at home with a little in the work place. Of course, the main point of the Christmas holiday belongs in church where we all should be. The Choir will be singing both days.

By the way, Michael Haisler is working on special project to light up Bethany's Bell Tower. The plan is to illuminate the top of the building where, if we had bells, they would be positioned. Instead we have dead speakers that apparently at one time rang and played our favorite hymns. In case you didn't know, many years ago Bethany installed a very elaborate system of chimes both in the Sanctuary and in our bellless Bell Tower. For its time it was a state-of-the-art, before the term state-of-the-art was thought of. It has a master clock that controls when and where the chimes are played. The hymns that are played on the Chimes that I don't play, for example: at the end of the service, are pre-recorded on rolls. These rolls are very similar to the rolls that are used for old player pianos. We have an extensive collection of these rolls for each season of the church year. They have been in the cabinet below the Master Clock that makes the system run. We are fortunate that we have had one of the persons who over the years has installed and maintained these elaborate antique Carillon systems. Every time George Hellman comes to visit

it is another lesson on how the wonderful machine works. The last time he came to visit, Michael Haisler and I learned more about the system and how it works. The first time I met George Hellman, it was arranged by Gary Johnson; while George was there he show us how to change the pre-recorded rolls, which takes some finger dexterity to do. The plan is to light up the bellless Bell Tower and then reconnect the speakers. The speakers are probably older than I am and may need to be replaced. Once all of that is done and Michael reconnects the wires and cables, we will give St. Ita's and St. Gertrude's a run for the chime money. There is some concern about our neighbors so the thought was to start with just Sundays and a lower volume to see if we receive any distress calls from our neurotic neighbors.

We are thinking about at change in the name for our Saturday Service. When we first started talking about having a different type service a semi contemporary, Marilyn Anderson suggested the name of Simple Gifts, which we have used now for several years. We thought that now perhaps it was time for a change. The other day when I was explaining the service to someone in an email I said it was our Monthly Alternative Saturday Service. So the name "MASS" came to me as a possibility for a new name. Other suggestions are most welcome. It would be good if we could initiate a name change by the end of this year.

Don't forget to attend the Edgewater Singers 15th Annual Christmas Concert on December 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. They have graciously asked me to provide a pre-concert prelude / warm up on our wonderful organ. (I have located some wonderful music by Lady GaGa and Justin Bieber. I just can't figure out how to play them.) I am grateful that they asked me again this year. This will be my 9th or 10th year doing the pre-concert prelude for them. For me it is such a thrill to look out and see so many people in our church. One year I thought I would put crazy glue on all of the pews so the people had to stay there for at least the next day, which was our regular Sunday Advent service.

The Holidays will be here before you know it. Another "Don't Forget" date is Bethany's Christmas Dinner/Party which is always the highlight of the year with wonderful food that I can look at, and beautiful decorations that I would like to eat. This year we might do as we have done in years past and have a sing along with a mixture of sacred and secular music. This is an event that you shouldn't miss. Great heartfelt thanks and appreciation go out to Gary Johnson, Barbara Littwin and Barbara Rupholdt for their invaluable time and work in preparing and hosting this very special event. We look forward to something that even outdoes Macy's.

TRUSTEES. We are making progress with our various projects to make Bethany a safer, dryer, better illuminated establishment. The following is a quick rundown on what is going on with our various improvement projects.

1. Fire Alarm System Upgrade – This is substantially completed. We need to do a final inspection and sign off and to have a training class for those who need to know how the thing works. We are also considering expanding the system to cover other areas that we did not include initially. For example the kitchen, the offices, the apartment and a few other areas. We are obtaining an estimate to possibly expand the system to include other exposed areas.
2. Our electrician has started work on some of our lights that are kaput. The flood lights about the altar and the stain glass windows. There is a list of items that our Trustees have

approved that will be taking place over the next couple weeks including some improvements to the exterior lighting. We are going to have an outlet in the garden/playground area so we can put lights back in the tree. Last time the many neighborhood squirrels had lunch on the wires. Anyway there is a list of things that they will be working on including replacing several fixtures that are no longer functional in the parsonage.

3. We have another and similar list for the plumber. We have more leaks than Noah had in the Ark. They will be starting their work shortly and you should notice some improvements being made. Also, if you know of any leaks which do not get addressed, please tell a trustee.
4. The roofer repair guys are now scheduled to start in a couple weeks come snow or rain. These guys work 12 months a year, and we are looking forward to their starting. If we don't get the leaks fixed soon, we will need to hand out umbrellas along with each bulletin. They will be making repairs to the church, school and Parish Hall buildings.
5. Doors and Locks Oh! My! Now that everyone in Edgewater has a key to Bethany's door it is time to revamp our keys. Over the next several weeks we will be changing locks all around the building and will be managing the issuing of keys in a more organized fashion. Anyone who is issued any key will need to sign for it on a form that has all of their pertinent information. We need to get a better grasp on the keys and maintain the key management with the highest level of control and integrity.
6. We are going to change the signs that we have. The new "Wind Sign" needs to have a new insert with information about our holiday services. We offered Edgewater Singers the opportunity to advertising their concert using our WindSign; they liked the idea very much. It does give a great deal of exposure with all of the foot traffic on Thorndale.

There are other things going on: we are working with Chicago Friends School on the monthly promotions to get their enrollment rolling up for the Fall 2012 school year. We are also working with Wordlife Kingdom Ministries to renew their contract and expand the areas that they will be renting and to have a longer contract term with them.

We are also talking with a Day Care group that has express interest in our building. They were so interested that they contacted the City of Chicago for a walk through with 5 different City & State departments to check out Bethany to how close we come to be code compliant.

There are also several other groups that have expressed interested in our space and we are continuing our dialog with them.

I would like to wish everyone a very beautiful Christmas and hope that you will let the spirit of Christmas into your hearts, because that is where it belongs. Also as the year ends and we start a new one, I would wish for all of you only the very best in your health, your faith, your family, and yourself.

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Marvin did a beautiful job of covering all that the Trustees have been doing. I just want to reiterate: if you see something which should be addressed, please tell a Trustee: Mike Haisler, Barb Littwin, Marvin Marks or me.

I wish you all a **Blessed Christmas**.

Barbara Rupholdt- Co-Chairman of Trustees

BOARD OF ELDERS (Gary Johnson)

THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP. A heartfelt thank you is sent to Barbara Rupholdt for coordinating the Thanksgiving Dinner which was enjoyed by 9 congregational members and two guests. Several people help contribute food for the dinner and all are thanked for their generosity in seeing that those who did not have a place to go had a very nice Thanksgiving meal. Again thanks to all who made this a memorable event.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: A reminder that we will be celebrating the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m. It will be a service of lessons and carols. In addition, on Christmas Day we will be celebrating Christ's birth by a traditional morning service along with the celebration of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. This will be the last service of the year. On New Years Day, which is also on a Sunday, Holy Communion will be offered again. Take time out of your busy Christmas Day morning and come and worship Christ the newborn King as well as on New Year's Day and begin the new year by giving thanks to God for his love to the world. Also after the Christmas Day service, there will be a Christmas Dinner provided for those who, like on Thanksgiving Day, do not have relatives in the area and will be otherwise spending it by themselves. We look forward to having this as our first Christmas Dinner with our new pastors and family.



CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY. On December 18th, the annual Christmas party will be held in the Mary Klug Lounge at Noon. This has been held here since 2005 and each year has been a huge success and all who have been in attendance can give credence to that. Besides our members, we are pleased to have our congregation invite friends or relatives as well to participate in the festivities of good food and camaraderie. There is always plenty of merriment, singing and of course the food and its presentation are something that is not often seen. Come and be a part of it this year and experience a truly traditional great Christian fellowship. You will have the opportunity to sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. December 11 is the last day to sign up and let Gary know if you will be bringing someone. All reservations must be made by then. If you are paying by check, make the check payable to Bethany and mark on the comment area for Christmas Party. If paying by cash, please place in an envelope and mark it "Christmas Party". Either should be handed to Gary. The cost is \$15 per person. See Gary for more details.

The entire Board of Elders wishes you and your loved ones a blessed Merry Christmas



And he will
be called...
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6



DECEMBER CALENDAR



- 10 Edgewater Community Singers Christmas Concert – 7:30 p.m.
 - 14 Advent Service at 7:30 p.m. preceded by light supper at 6:00 p.m.
 - 18 Annual Christmas Party – Mary Klug Lounge – 12:00 Noon
 - 24 Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols – 7:30 p.m.
 - 25 Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion – 10:30 a.m.
 - 31 Simple Gifts - New Year’s Eve – Mary Klug Lounge – 5 p.m.
- January 1 – New Year’s Day Service with Holy Communion

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Laurie Winkelman
- 23 Richard Tank
- 26 Hilde Stock



- Thoburn Downes
- Loretta Dellenbeck
- Rev. Tony Davis
- Rev. Paul Dobberstein
- Steve Kasischke
- Peter List
- Tess List
- Cathy Loe
- Marvin Marx
- Peggy Spencer
- Izzy Spencer
- Gloria Weisberger
- Kathy Wong

READERS' SCHEDULE

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
4 – Barbara Rupholdt	1 – Izzy Spencer	5 – Richard Tank
11 – Richard Winkelman	8 – Amber Yancey-Carroll	12 – Amber Yancey-Carroll
18 – Amber Yancey-Carroll	15 – Albert Anderson	19 – Izzy Spencer
24 – Richard W, Richard T, Barbara R	22 – Karin Franco	26 – Barbara Rupholdt
25 – Richard Tank	29 – Richard Winkelman	

IS CHRIST YOUR REASON FOR YOUR SEASON?

The miraculous birth of our Savior is one of the foundation stones of our Christian faith. It is the companion truth to that of His sacrifice on the cross. Because of this, it will generally be found that anyone who denies one denies the other. It is not my intent to restate the Christmas story as told in Luke and Matthew. That you can read on your own, Luke 2:1-7 and Matthew 2:1-12. But it is my intent of professing to you and to others who might read this that JESUS CHRIST is the reason for the season and the only reason.

Ah yes, here we Christians are again retelling the same old tired story of the birth of someone most aren't even interested in hearing about. Instead, people are out busily shopping for gifts. Wonder why this is happening? Why should people be shopping for gifts and gifts at this time of year? Could it just be that there is a holiday around the corner? Modern Christmas celebrations have little or nothing to do with Jesus, the Feast of the Nativity, or the Incarnation. Holiday parties are everywhere—and let's face it if we didn't have a lot of good food and good cheer (that refreshing oh so good cheer), what kind of party would that be? But why? we ask. Commercially we see stores filled with decorations announcing it is that time of year to celebrate something. Special music is played throughout the stores and the Malls. Oh yes, we even see a man in a red suit with a white beard appear in the Malls and some stores, so something special must be going to happen. While "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" is becoming more and more popular, the true meaning of Christmas has nothing to do with him, but it looks like he must be the main reason for the season.

Christians say the true reason for the season is Jesus Christ. Are you kidding? Notice if you will CHRISTmas. More and more people in our country and perhaps others around the world as well are becoming more and more offended by the wonderful name of a certain man—JESUS CHRIST. We see that other religious beliefs have put their mark on this holiday. We live in a society where it is not politically correct to show a manger scene as the focal point in a commercial setting. We might hear some traditional Christmas hymns, but most likely instead we hear *Jingle Bells*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Santa Baby*, or *White Christmas* and other secular tunes being played. We even see children with their parents lined up to sit on the lap of a man in a red suit. Wonder how the world would react if the man in the red suit would be substituted for a man with a beard and wearing a plain woolen robe? Hey, a line to see Jesus? "Is He here in the store" If Christmas time is His birthday, why don't we see Him more?" Maybe a child would ask that, and yes his mother could say this: "Jesus was born for you; Santa brought you presents but Jesus gave His life for you in the blink of an eye." Where is the line for Jesus? How our world has changed from the ear of professing being a Christian and what Christmas really meant. "How can you Christians force us and our children to accept your beliefs?", non-believers and other religious groups say. Yet, in turn I would say probably with some irritation and strength in my voice, "If it wasn't for our belief you wouldn't be celebrating the holiday we call Christmas at all."

I said earlier that this is the season for everyone to give gifts to each other. Yes, Christmas is a time of gift giving. Today Christians and non-believers alike give gifts. I think that in the back of our minds we do it in showing love to each other and of course that stems from Jesus in mind, or so we hope. And yet do you wonder if the non-Christians ever stop to think why Christmas and gift giving even happens? It isn't because of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus as he is now known) bringing toys to children, although most children up to a certain age believe there is this man and he is the real reason for having Christmas. Actually gift giving was originated with the birth of the baby Jesus who was born in a stable in Bethlehem Judea. Most of the world knew little and

cared less when a virgin gave birth to the Son of God and so it is today. Even those who do today know who the babe is give little credence and just give it a passing thought; their minds are not on Christ but on secular things. And yet what amazes us is that on the night Christ was born a few shepherds loved and worshipped the Baby Jesus. They didn't bring gifts but what they brought was more precious than gifts—they brought themselves to come and see what the angel had proclaimed. Their greatest gift was the spreading of the event. But even more amazing is the Wise Men from the East who followed a star to worship and present gifts worthy of royalty to the Son of God as a celebration of the birth of the Savior.

The gifts tell a wonderful story. These men opened their treasures and gave gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. By faith, these godly men gave things that would best picture that which was due Jesus. These men from the East were wise indeed, with spiritual wisdom.

Now I want you to think about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. No event in the history of the world has been so celebrated in word and song as the birth of Jesus Christ. The story itself of the birth of Christ is so remarkable. Stop and think. Jesus Christ left his heavenly home in glory to be born of a virgin, to take on the flesh of a human being, just for one day in his life to die on the cross for our sins. God had planned this. God does everything in due time. One might say, "We, why did he wait so long?" No lapse of ages can subdue God's power. No power of Satan or any one man can bring to mankind God's promise of salvation through His son Jesus Christ. Do not try to explain the love of God—just receive it. As you look at the scene in the stable, then you are reminded that God was working. The birth of Christ, the life of Christ, the death of Christ can be explained in only one way—the love of God. When Jesus came into the world, He revealed the love of God. He showed to us the compassion of the eternal Father for the worst of sinners. Who can measure it? Who can fathom it?

I do not believe the plan was without purpose. The Bible reveals that God does nothing foolishly. God does not make mistakes, make no mistake! It gives humility to the proud. The arrogant and conceited must pause and think—Christ born in a manger! Salvation does not come to anyone unless he truly bows before God in repentance and faith. The self-righteous of this world will never receive salvation unless they forsake their self-righteous spirit and receive salvation by accepting Him.

Believing this, let us stand as many Christians do on Christmas Eve at midnight in Bethlehem and listen to these words: "*But you. O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah, for out of these shall come a ruler, that will shepherd my people Israel.*" (Matt. 2:6) Oh the greatness of the Little One born in a stable and laid in a manger! Isaiah said, "His name shall be called Wonderful." And surely He is the world's great wonder. No one else has ever approached Him. He is in a class all by Himself. He has no second. No man ever spoke as did Jesus. The common people heard Him gladly. He never wrote a sermon. He never published a book, but oh if He did, what a book it would have been. He never even founded a religious school, yet His teachings have endured for over two thousand years. Only the great, eternal, infinite God should conceive such a magnificent plan! Jesus, born of a virgin, was born in a stable and laid in a manger. The scene of the stable gives encouragement to the lowliest of mankind to come to Christ. The Son of God enters our world in utter humanity and without fanfare. We are invited to come "without money and without price." (Isaiah 55:1).

Yes Christians do say, "Jesus is the reason for the season." Any of you who want to get up and debate with me saying it isn't so, come on and I will be the one to win. Yet I should expect you to agree with me if you are a Christian. But if you know someone who is not a Christian or who was once a Christian but no longer and now thinks being one is stupid and out of character and

not the norm of society, then we should not expect him or her to hold to the same truths as we do. It is natural for them to believe otherwise or even to teach that Santa Claus is Christmas. Sad but true. Do you not agree? Take away the tinsel and trappings of our modern drinking, eating, carousing and a commercial Christmas and give us instead a Christmas with a virgin-born Christ, announced by angels and received with faith! Jesus is God!

So instead of the hype of secular Christmas and Santa Claus, picture yourself looking at the manager seeing that this babe, the Christ Child, as the King who will reign, the very God to whom men must give an account, the dying Savior who made atonement for the sins of the world. Many people think Santa Claus is eternal but can he like Jesus who is eternal give everlasting life to mankind? No he cannot.

So the Christ Child at Christmas is pictured as the King who will reign, the very God to whom men must give an account, the dying Savior who made atonement for the sins of the world.

My friends may this message leave and lead you with humble hearts to search the Scriptures that will lead you to find the Christ. The miracle of the night that God sent his son into the world so that mankind could receive ultimate pardon for their sinfulness certainly should be one that each and every one of us keeps within our hearts not just at this time of year but every day of our lives. The most precious gift from God is the greatest gift you will ever receive and to share that love of Christ to all you encounter in your life. May God keep within your heart the love He gave the world and may Christ be your reason for the season. If you do not know and love Him, although I am sure you do, like the Wise Men, I trust you will find Him at any cost, then finding Him, you will open your treasures and give Him all the love and devotion of your heart. Trust Jesus as your Savior this Christmas, love Him with all your heart, and claim Him openly as your Savior as the Wise Men of the East did. You won't be sorry. Yes, JESUS CHRIST is the reason for this special season. Merry Christmas.

Gary Johnson

THE LIGHT OF A STAR

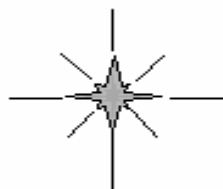
Down from a sky of silver stars
Floated a star of gold;
Trembling, it floated low and stood
Over a humble fold.

It was the quiet time before
The angel choir began,
Before the Wise Men bowed them down
To the little Son of Man.

The star came closer down the hill,
It bloomed in the courtyard tree;
And, leaning to find, as mothers will,
What manner of child was He.

Mary murmured, "It is so dark,
His face I cannot see..."
The door swung in on a wind of light;

No darkness was left at all.
And Mary saw that her child was
By a star on a stable wall.



God,