

Advent: 22nd December - For everybody, worldwide



On the morning of Christ's nativity,
Shepherds, William Blake

O Antiphon: King of nations

For a child has been born for us, a son given us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

[Video: O Come O Come Emmanuel, Advent hymn based on the O Antiphons](#)

The story continues...

There were shepherders camping in the neighbourhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide..." (*Luke 2:8-10*)

Silence and Imaginative exercise

Angels now explicitly state what the ecstatic prayers of Elizabeth and Mary, and those of Anna and Simeon to come, all witness to: the universal and inclusive nature of Jesus's birth. Everybody. Everywhere. Worth a moment's ponder.

Closing Blessing

Be a bright flame before me,
Be a guiding star above me,
Be a smooth path below me,
And be a kindly shepherd behind me,
To-day, to-night, and for ever.

Garmina Gadelica