



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jesus

See in yonder manger low
Born for us on earth below
See the tender Lamb appears
Promised from eternal years



*Hail Thou ever blessed morn
Hail redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem
Christ is born in Bethlehem*

Lo within a manger lies
He Who built the starry skies
He Who throned in height sublime
Sits amid the cherubim

Sacred Infant all divine
What a tender love was Thine
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.

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"And they shall call Him Immanuel, God with us"



As we near Christmas day, we come to praise Your name that in Jesus You have come near us
- near us in history in Jesus at Bethlehem,
- near us through the Holy Spirit when we invite You into our lives.

We give thanks that we can know You as ...

... Immanuel, God with us, because in Jesus we see You for us in history
wanting the best for us, coming to die on the cross for us

....Immanuel, God with us, because of the resurrection we can know Your living presence now

....Immanuel, God with us, because we can know You active in our lives
because Jesus said "behold I stand at the door and knock
if anyone hear my voice and open the door I will come in"

May this Christmas be a real and meaningful one,
through Jesus Christ to Whom with You O Father and the Holy Spirit
be all praise and glory now and for ever AMEN



We know what is meant - shop locally, which is a good idea!

But actually Christmas was/is made

- i. in heaven ... where God planned it
- ii. in Bethlehem ... where Jesus started to carry out the plan
- iii. in us ... when we welcome Jesus through the Spirit into our lives!

This is brought out in the first chapter of John. It is helpful to know the background meaning of "Word"

Greek : logic behind universe

Hebrew : communication from God

in English we use it : Any word ? Given his word As good as his word

Reading John 1.1.-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 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.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The virgin Mary had a baby boy
The virgin Mary had a baby boy
The virgin Mary had a baby boy
and they say that His name is Jesus
*He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom
O yes, believer, O yes, believer,
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom*

The angels sang when the baby was born
The angels sang when the baby was born
The angels sang when the baby was born
and they sang that His name is Jesus
*He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom
O yes, believer, O yes, believer,
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom*

The shepherds came where the baby was born
The shepherds came where the baby was born
The shepherds came where the baby was born
and they say that His name is Jesus
*He come from the glory,
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He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom
O yes, believer, O yes, believer,
He come from the glory,
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**Christmas is
God down to earth**

**Bible reflects life
and
always relates faith and life**

God is ...

... source of life

... sharer in the world

... supplier of life -

- as meant to be

- abundant

- eternal

Jesus



**God's
Greatest Gift**

offered to us

Question for us is...

Remote

or

Received and operational ?

Received and operational ?

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**Child in a manger
infant of Mary
Outcast and stranger
Lord of all
Child Who inherits
all our transgressions
All our demerits
on Him fall.**

**Once the most holy
Child of salvation
Gently and lowly
lived below
Now as our glorious
mighty Redeemer
See Him victorious
o'er each foe.**

**Prophets foretold Him
Infant of wonder
Angels behold Him
On His throne
Worthy our Saviour
of all their praises
Happy for ever
are His own.**

We say "thank you" that there is a real meaning to Christmas lasting when the wrapping paper is ditched and the food is eaten. Hear us as we pray for ourselves, that welcome You into our lives whether for the first time or if faith has grown stale to refresh our commitment



Hear us as we say thank you for family circles and what they mean to us and as we pray for those who are isolated and feeling unloved, for those who are on care packages and feel just a package, and for those who are trying to provide sensitive care. for those for whom this is their first Christmas on their own, or who sense that this will be their last Christmas together.

Hear us, Father, as we bring our prayers for others :

We remember that Jesus was a refugee child,

and lived in world which then as now was filled with all kinds of trouble.

We pray for families in refugee camps, asylum seekers caught up as political pawns or feeling dehumanised as they drown whether in the Channel or in red tape.

As we have plenty food, we pray for those who don't, realising that the biggest problem is that in many countries there is wealth but is it not shared fairly.

We pray for the relief organisation and those who are trying to bring fairness into our world.

We pray for the situation in the Yemen and Congo with the ongoing cycle of violence

Hear us as we pray for those who are sharing the good news of Jesus with a growing generation, and those who are persecuted for their faith.

As we think of Jesus coming into this world, we pray for the Christian witness in what we call the Holy Land : for Tabeetha school in Jaffa, for the congregation in Tiberias ad particularly for St Andrew's Church in Jerusalem,

Hear us as we sum up our prayers in the prayer Jesus taught those who loved You saying

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

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O Come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

God of God
Light of Light
Lo He abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God
Begotten not created
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
"Glory to God
in the highest"
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Immanuel : God with us

May the awareness of Immanuel be very precious to us day by day AMEN

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