

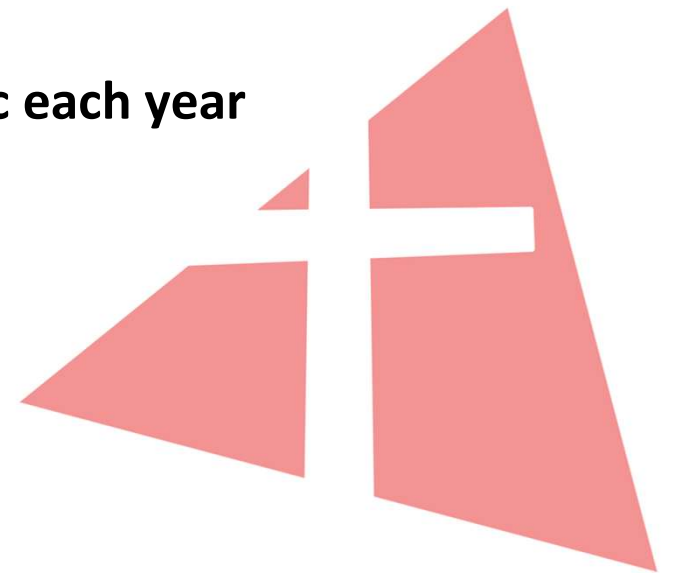
A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. The background is a dark blue night sky with a gradient of green and yellow light emanating from the right side, where a large, bright star is visible. The scene is filled with numerous small, glowing stars. In the foreground, the silhouettes of the Virgin Mary, the infant Jesus in a manger, and the three wise men are visible. To the left, three camels are silhouetted against the night sky, and a palm tree is also visible. The text 'Glory TO THE NEWBORN King' is written in a golden, cursive font across the upper left portion of the scene.

Glory  
TO THE NEWBORN  
King

***Does Christmas interrupt my life?***

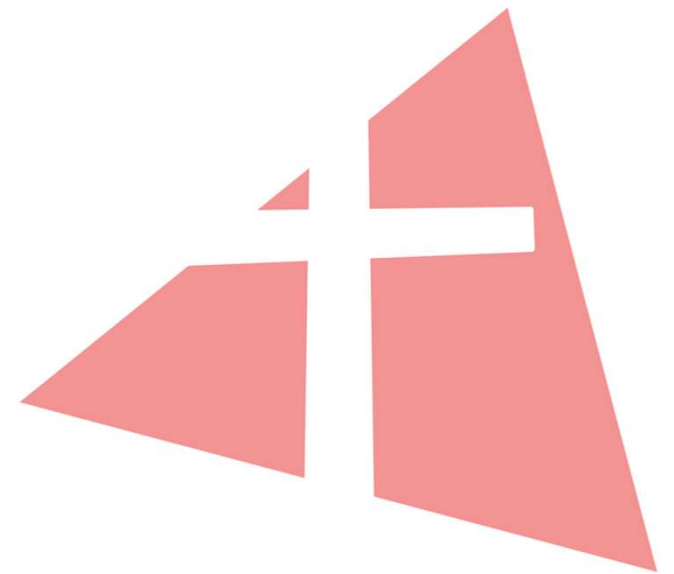
# Christmas 2024

- **My personal experience: Christmas gets more and more hectic each year**



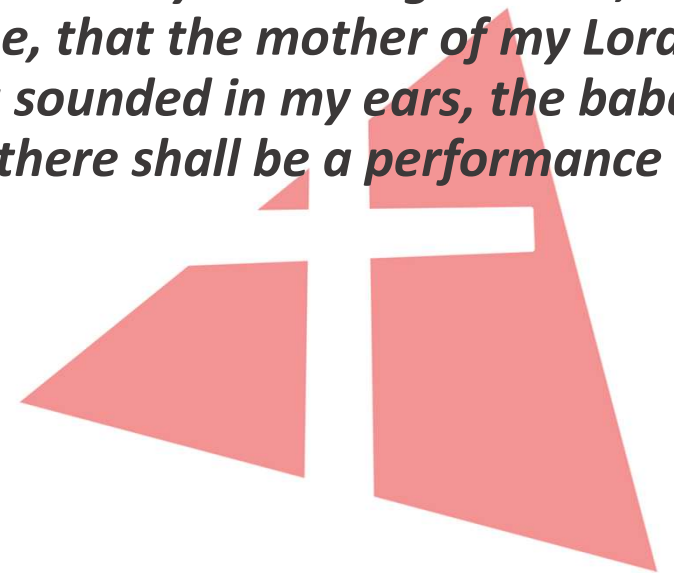
# The First Christmas

- There were very different reactions to Jesus' arrival



# Elizabeth

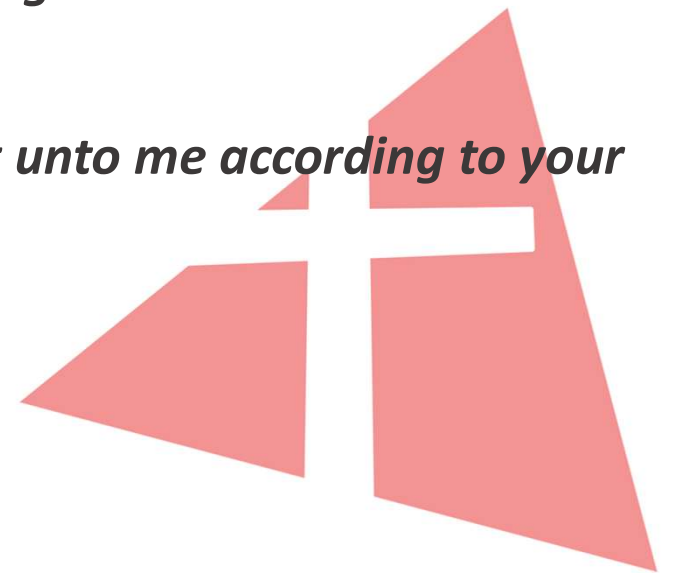
*Luke 1:42-45 And she spoke out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.*



# Mary

*Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*

*Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.*



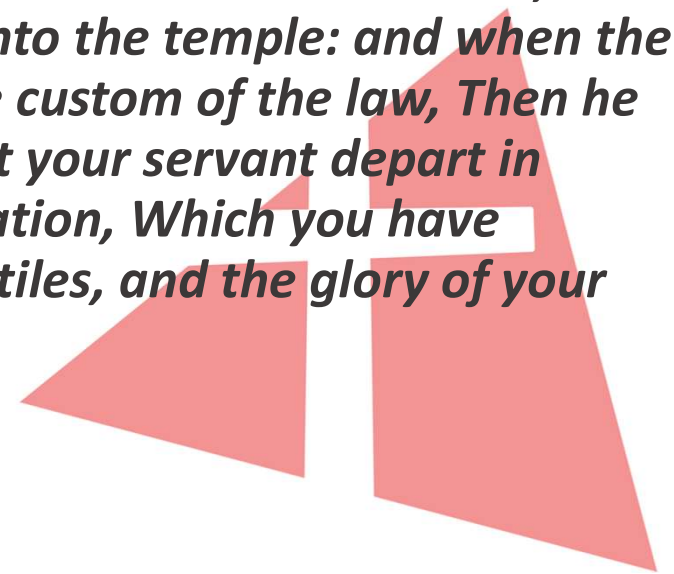
# The Shepherds

*Luke 2:15-16 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*



# Simeon

*Luke 2:25-32 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, Then he took him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word: For my eyes have seen your salvation, Which you have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.*



# Anna

*Luke 2:36-38 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher: she was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, who departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spoke of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

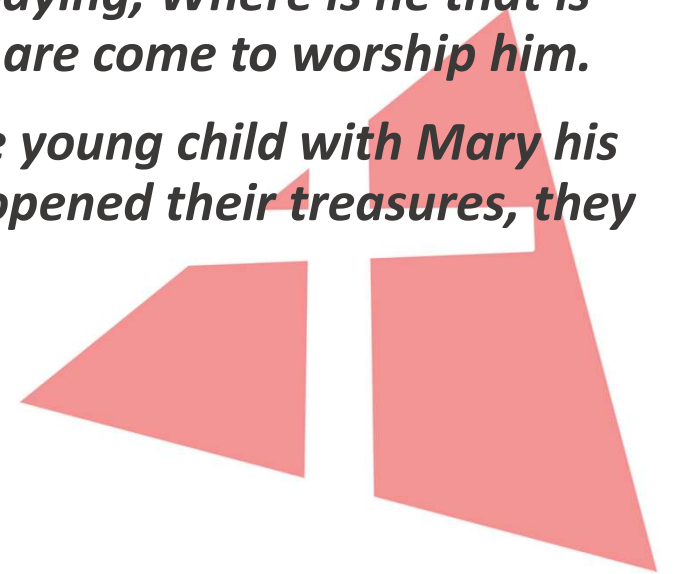




# The Wise Men

*Matthew 2:1-2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

*Matthew 2:11 And when they came into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*



# King Herod

*Matthew 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*



# The Rest

- Not making room for Jesus

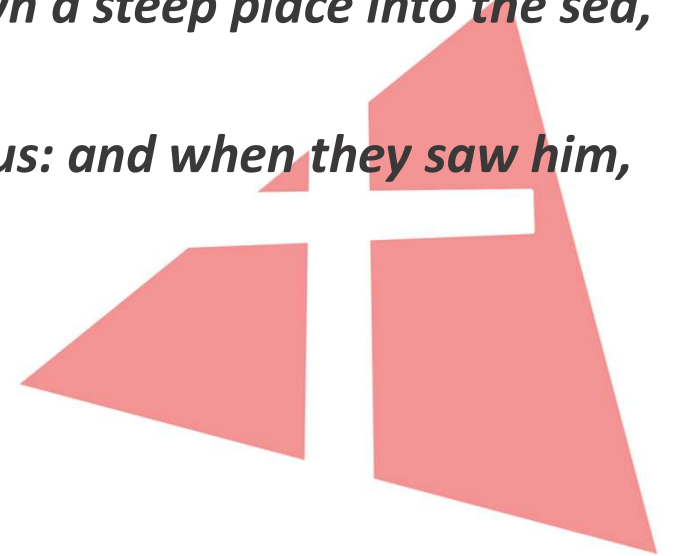
*Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*



# 30 Years Later

*Matthew 8:32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they came out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.*

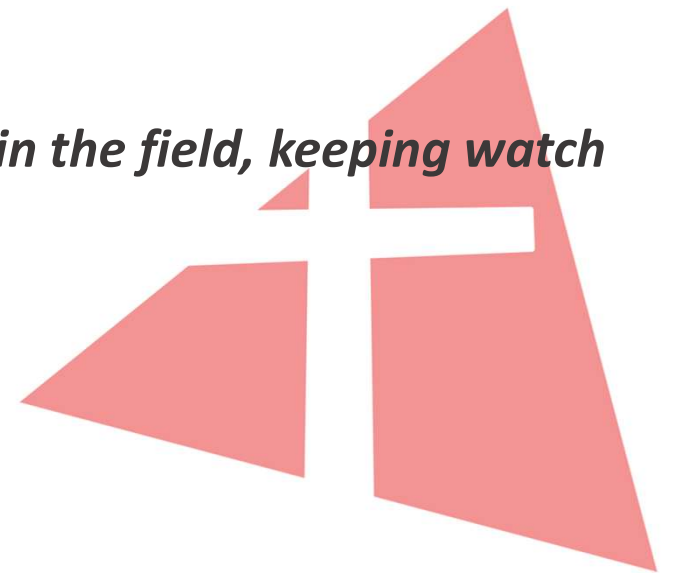
*Matthew 8:34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their region.*



# The Rest

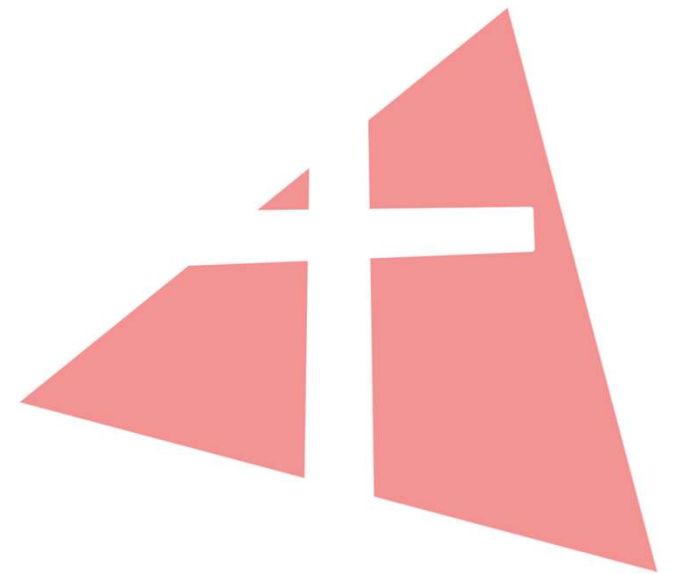
- Sleeping

*Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*



# Responses to Jesus' Birth

- **Jesus' arrival had two main responses**
  - Some people didn't notice what happened
  - Some people's lives were turned upside down



# Closing Question

- **Am I allowing Jesus to mess up my life this Christmas?**
- **Or do I simply live my own life and expect Jesus to “fit into the life I choose”?**

