



## Stations of the Crib

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### STATION 1: THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY OF ISAIAH (11. 1-10)

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A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of power,  
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -  
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.  
Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.  
The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,  
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.  
They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.  
In that day the Root of Jesse  
will stand as a banner for the peoples;  
the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

## **STATION 2: THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH (33. 14-16)**

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“ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD,  
‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made  
to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. “

‘In those days and at that time  
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.  
In those days Judah will be saved  
and Jerusalem will live in safety.  
This is the name by which it will be called:  
The LORD Our Righteousness.’

## **STATION 3: THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY OF MICAH (5. 1-5)**

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“But you, Bethlehem,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

And he will be their peace.

## **STATION 4: THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD TO MARY (LUKE 1. 26-38)**

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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 favored! 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 favor 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.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

### **STATION 5: MARY VISITS ELIZABETH (LUKE 1. 39-45)**

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At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

### **STATION 6: MARY’S SONG – THE MAGNIFICAT (LUKE 1. 46-56)**

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And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

### **STATION 7: JOSEPH OBEYS THE ANGEL (MATTHEW 1. 18-25)**

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Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD  
AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,”  
which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

### **STATION 8: THE BIRTH OF JESUS (LUKE 2. 1-7)**

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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. 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.

### **STATION 9: THE SHEPHERDS VISIT (LUKE 2. 8-12)**

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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 Savior 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.”

### **STATION 10: THE HEAVENLY HOST OF ANGELS (LUKE 2. 13-14)**

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Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

### **STATION 11: THE SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM (LUKE 2. 15-20)**

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When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” 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.

### **STATION 12: HEROD DEMANDS TO KNOW WHERE THE MESSIAH WAS BORN (MATTHEW 2. 1-6)**

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Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,  
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;  
FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER  
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.”

### **STATION 13: THE VISIT OF THE MAGI (MATTHEW 2. 7-12)**

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Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

### **STATION 14: LECTIO DIVINA**

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The practice of Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) involves dialoguing with God in prayer by hearing scripture as God speaking to you and responding in similar thoughts and words to what God said. Hear what God has to say to you and keep in mind the loving images of Mary the Mother, Joseph the Father, and the new born child.

**God:**

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you;  
You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice.  
(Isaiah 66. 13-14)

**You:** Dear God, as a mother comforts her child comfort me that my heart may rejoice.

**God:**

As a father has kindness on his children,  
so the LORD has kindness on those who revere him  
(Ps 103.13)

**You:** O Lord, as a father has kindness on his children bestow your kindness on me.

**God:**

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and  
before you were born I consecrated you;  
(Jer 1.5)

**You:** O God, you knew me before I was formed in the womb and you consecrated me before I was born for your service.

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### A BRIEF PERIOD OF REFLECTION

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**A Closing Prayer:**

**-A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson-**

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate and  
open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and  
good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.  
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Have a Merry Christmas*

