



During  
the Christmas  
season, there are many  
fun and wonderful things to enjoy:

counting down the days with Advent calendars,  
decorating Christmas trees, singing Christmas carols,  
celebrating with friends and relatives, going on family holidays,  
watching Christmas movies, enjoying delicious food and sweet treats,  
opening gifts,  
and much more.

What are some of your favourite things?

With all the excitement, it's easy to forget or even miss  
what is most amazing about Christmas —

*the MIRACLE in the MANGER!*

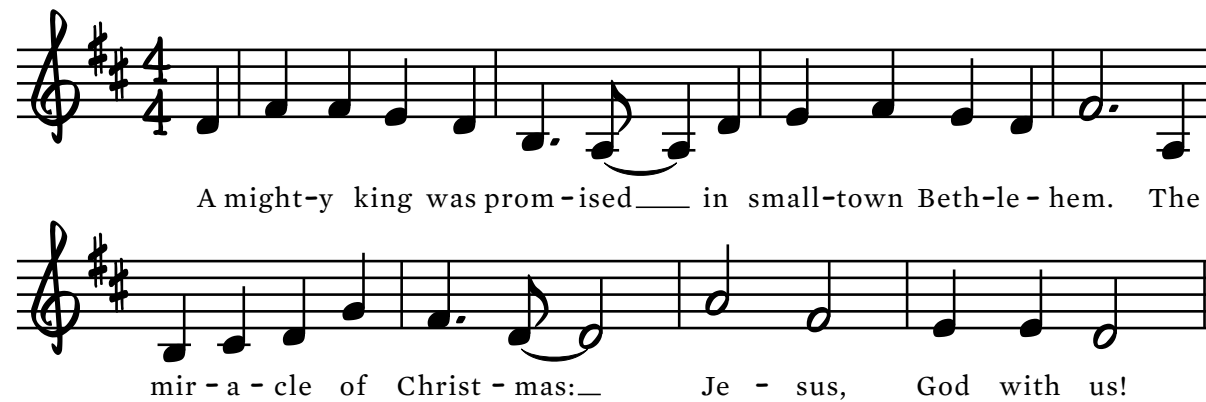


I have written a song about the very first Christmas to help us discover  
this miracle afresh. Turn the page to find out how it starts.

PART 1

**A mighty king was promised**

**A mighty king was promised  
in small-town Bethlehem.**



A musical score for a song in 4/4 time, key of D major. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: "A might-y king was prom-ised\_\_\_ in small-town Beth-le - hem. The mir - a - cle of Christ - mas:\_\_\_ Je - sus, God with us!"

**LISTEN:** [emumusic.com/TheMiracle](http://emumusic.com/TheMiracle)

We can learn more about this king from the Christmas story in the Bible.  
It's found at the beginning of Luke's Gospel...

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:1-5

Luke is one of four men who have written Jesus' life story down for us in the Bible. He begins his story — his gospel — by saying that he has researched all the facts. That means we can be sure that it is all true. Luke writes,

*“Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account ... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1:3-4)*

Luke wasn't an eyewitness to the events he describes, but he writes about them as if he was. Why? Because he wants us to experience Jesus' story as if we, too, were eyewitnesses to what is taking place all those years ago.

So, why don't you close your eyes and pretend you are in the Middle East, travelling back in time...

2020, 2000, 1800, 1500, 1000, 750, 400, 59, 0... just a bit further... to around 7BC!\*

\* The dating of our calendar is ever so slightly wrong.



Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem.  
It certainly isn't an easy journey for Mary.  
She is heavily pregnant, and the baby could come at any moment.  
I expect she must be feeling uncomfortable and exhausted.

But I imagine she is also quite excited.

Before Mary even became pregnant, the angel Gabriel visited her with a message from God. Gabriel said,

**“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus ... The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ... [and] his kingdom will never end.”** (Luke 1:31-33)

Now, that’s not something that happens every day, is it?

This baby will be the  *Forever King*.

But who was David? He was the king of Israel more than 3000 years ago. David protected his people and served them with justice, honesty, and love. Under his rule, the Israelites thrived.

God promised David that someone from his family — from his house or line — would be the *Forever King*. God said,

**“I will raise up your offspring to succeed you ... [and] your throne will be established forever.”**  
(2 Samuel 7:12,16)

That is why it is so important that this baby is the great-great-great-far-off-grandchild of King David and is to be born in David’s city, Bethlehem.

When we think of kings, we often think about how they selfishly use their power to serve themselves. But imagine how good life would be with a king like David, one who would lovingly protect and serve his people *forever*.

Why don’t you turn back two pages and reread Luke 2:4-5 (in bold)?

This long-awaited king is about to be born!

# PART 2

## God's own Son is born

DID YOU KNOW?



### INSCRIPTION – 800BC

Pictured is an Aramaic inscription that is part of a stone slab to remember the military victories of Hazael, king of Aram. Circled is the earliest reference to the house or line of David outside the Bible. That is more proof King David really lived!

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