

SERMON: WHAT CHILD IS THIS? – The Child Who Is John’s Joy (Luke 1:39-45)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco
December 16, 2018

It was a joyous scene when the ark of God drew near to Jerusalem in King David’s day. The ark of the covenant was such a gift of grace and mercy, David did something that adults—especially kings—never do. He leapt for joy before the ark. But it was an even more joyous scene when John the Baptist, the forerunner, met Jesus, the Savior, for the first time, while they were both still in their mothers’ wombs. John, in the womb of an elderly, formerly barren woman, leapt for joy at the voice of Mary, the Virgin carrying God’s Son in her womb. God’s special presence on earth would no longer be tied to a gold-covered box but rather to the incarnate Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. Our hearts have every reason to leap for joy as John the Baptist leapt. God’s presence is among us as Christ draws near to us in His Word and Sacraments, and He has promised to be near to us forever when He comes again on the Last Day.

The _____ Drew Near to King David in Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 6:12–23

David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes...” – 2 Samuel 6:21-22

The _____ Drew Near to John in Elizabeth’s Womb.

Luke 1:39–45

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. – Luke 1:41

The Lord Drew Near to His People in _____.

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-20

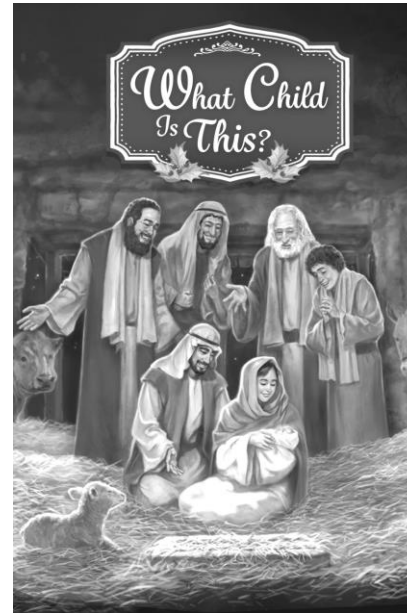
The Lord Draws Near to Us in _____ and _____.

John 1:1-14, John 6:56, 63; John 15:1-7

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.” – John 6:56

We _____ that the Lord is _____!

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. – Philippians 4:4-5



Questions for individual or group reflection:

When in your life have you ever leapt for joy?

Why did King David leap before the Ark of God? (2 Sam 6:12-23)

Why was it surprising and even offensive that he did so?

Which was God more pleased with, David’s display of joy or Michal’s display of scorn?

Why is the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth in Luke 1:39-45 so significant?

What does this reveal to you about how God views life in the womb?

What does it show about the significance of the One Mary was carrying in her womb?

How do Luke 2 and John 1 help you appreciate the magnitude of Christ’s coming into the world?

Why did God draw near to His creation?

Was Christ’s appearance 2,000 years ago the last time we’ll see Him?

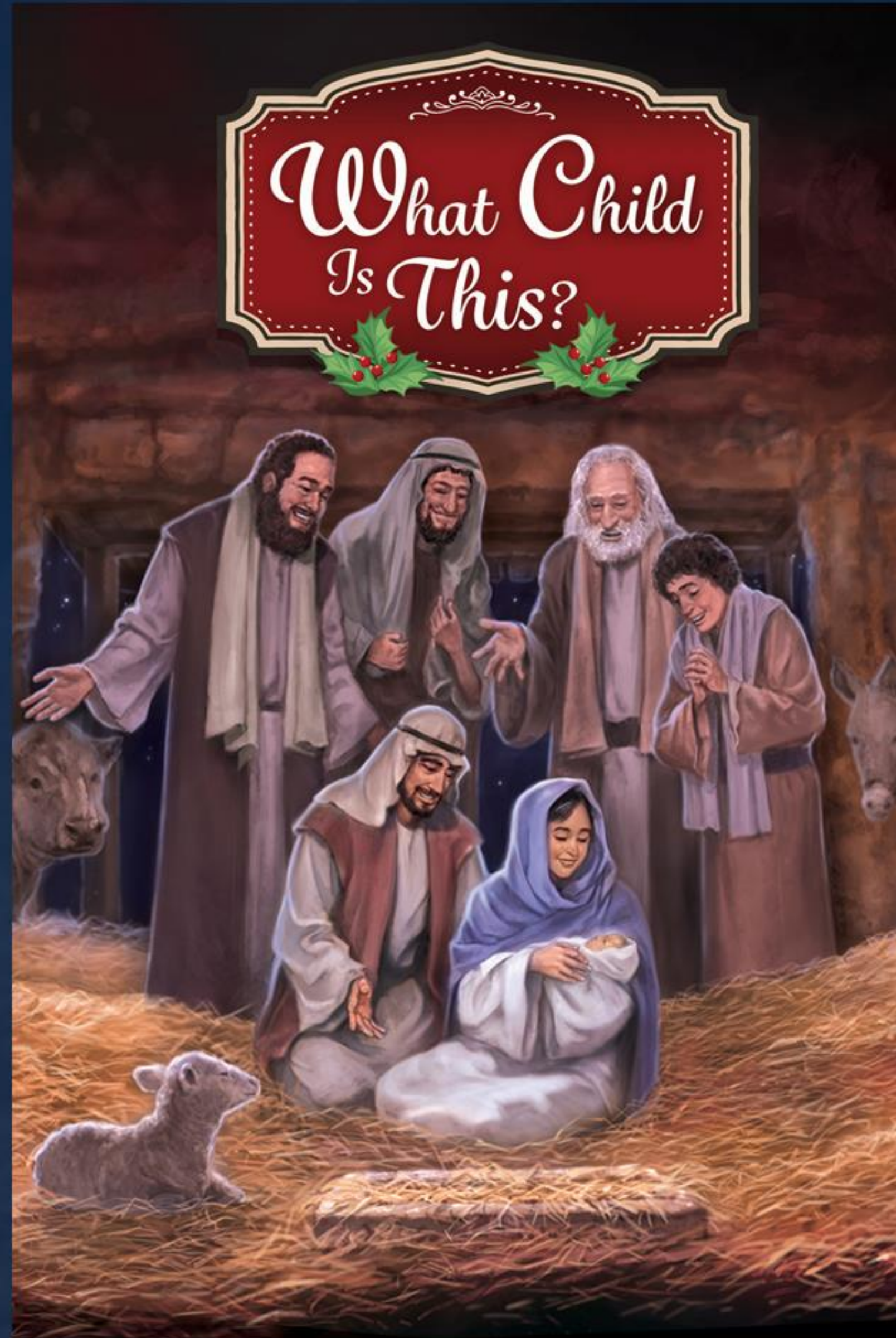
How do you feel about the Bible’s teaching that we continue to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

Do you take advantage of the opportunity to meet with the Lord regularly in His Word?

Would you say that your heart truly “rejoices” that the Lord is near? If not, what might need to change?

Taking it home / Memory Verse:

In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!” – Luke 1:42



What Child Is This? An Advent Worship Series

The Child Who is John's Joy



Price is right video

A blue-tinted illustration of a man and a woman in traditional attire. The man, on the left, is wearing a white thobe and a ghutra, looking towards the woman. The woman, on the right, is wearing a white hijab and a thobe, holding a baby wrapped in a white cloth. The background shows a simple wooden structure, possibly a manger or a stable.

Price is right video

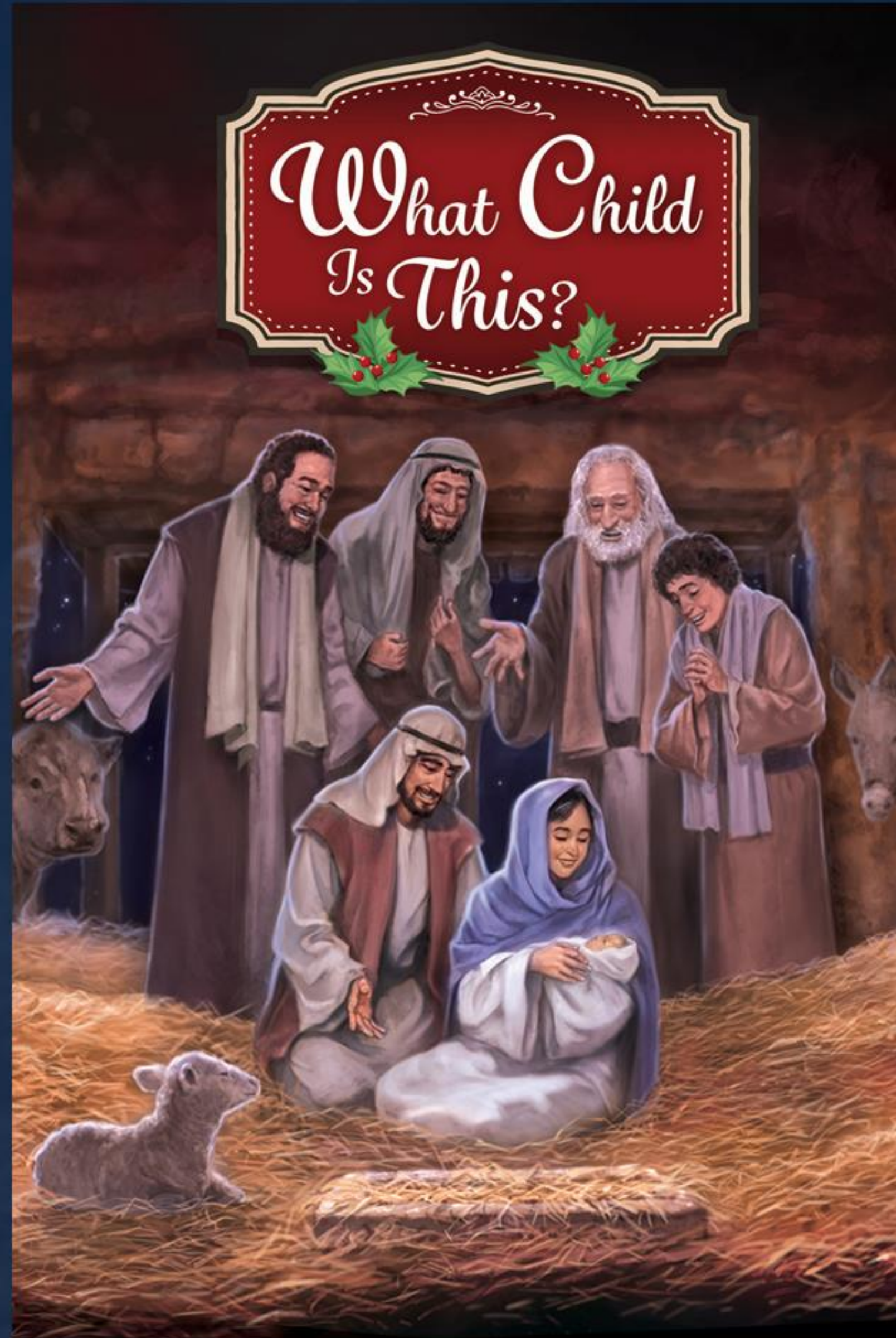
A blue-tinted illustration of a man and a woman in traditional attire. The man, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a white head covering and a white robe. He is looking towards the woman on the right. The woman is wearing a white headscarf and a white robe, and she is holding a baby wrapped in white cloth. The background is a simple, light-colored wall with some faint outlines of what might be a doorway or a window. The overall scene is peaceful and intimate.

Video from “Elf” of him very excited!



“Undignified”

by Matt Redman



What Child Is This? An Advent Worship Series

The Child Who is John's Joy



Angel appears





Image of Mary & Martha hugging as they meet



The ARK OF GOD Drew Near to King David
in Jerusalem

2 Samuel 6



Image of Ark of the Covenant

The image is a blue-tinted illustration depicting a biblical scene. In the center, King David is shown dancing with his arms outstretched and eyes closed in a state of joy or devotion. He is wearing a long, flowing robe and a head covering. To his right, a woman in a headscarf is seated, holding a young child in her arms. The background features a large, textured structure, likely the Ark of the Covenant, with a prominent vertical pillar. The overall scene is set in a simple, outdoor environment with a dark ground.

Image of King David Dancing before the Ark

David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes...”

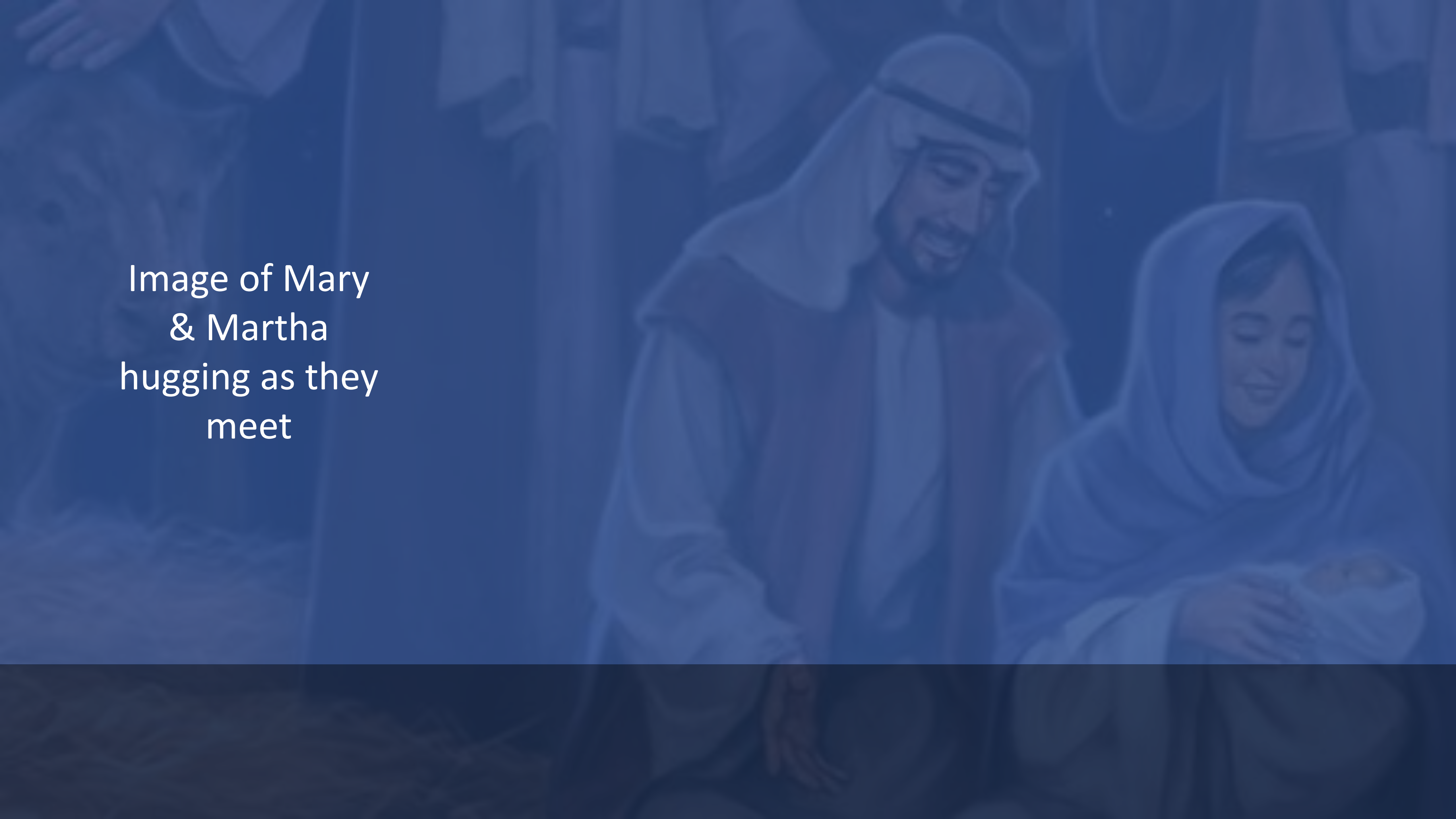
- 2 Samuel 6:21-22



The **SON OF GOD** Drew Near to John in Elizabeth's Womb.

Luke 1

Image of Mary
& Martha
hugging as they
meet



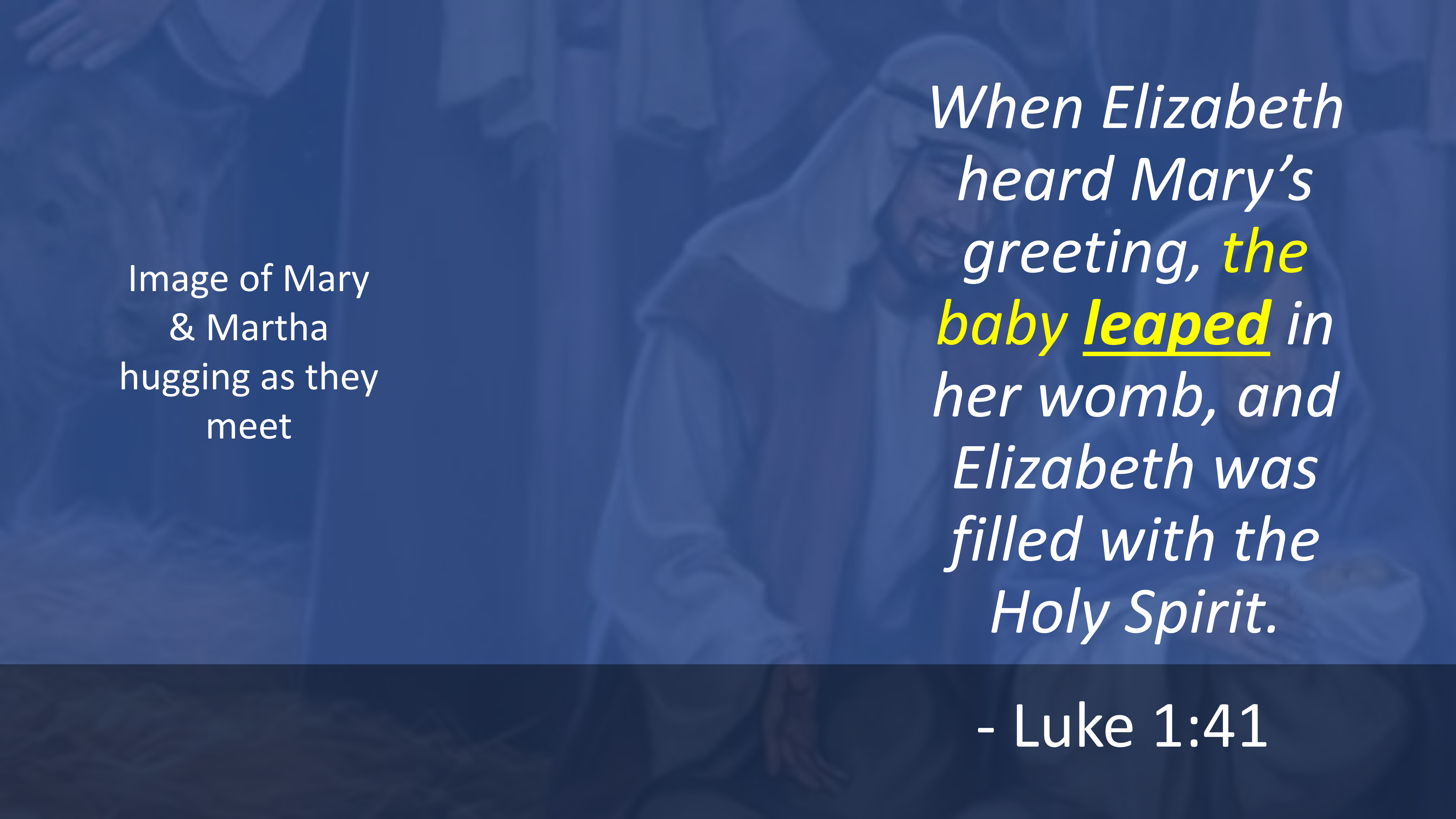


Image of Mary
& Martha
hugging as they
meet

*When Elizabeth
heard Mary's
greeting, **the
baby leaped** in
her womb, and
Elizabeth was
filled with the
Holy Spirit.*

- Luke 1:41



The Lord Drew Near to His People in
CHRIST'S BIRTH.

Luke 2



Image of Angels appearing to the shepherds



*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near.*

- Philippians 4:4-5

Image of Jesus
in the manger

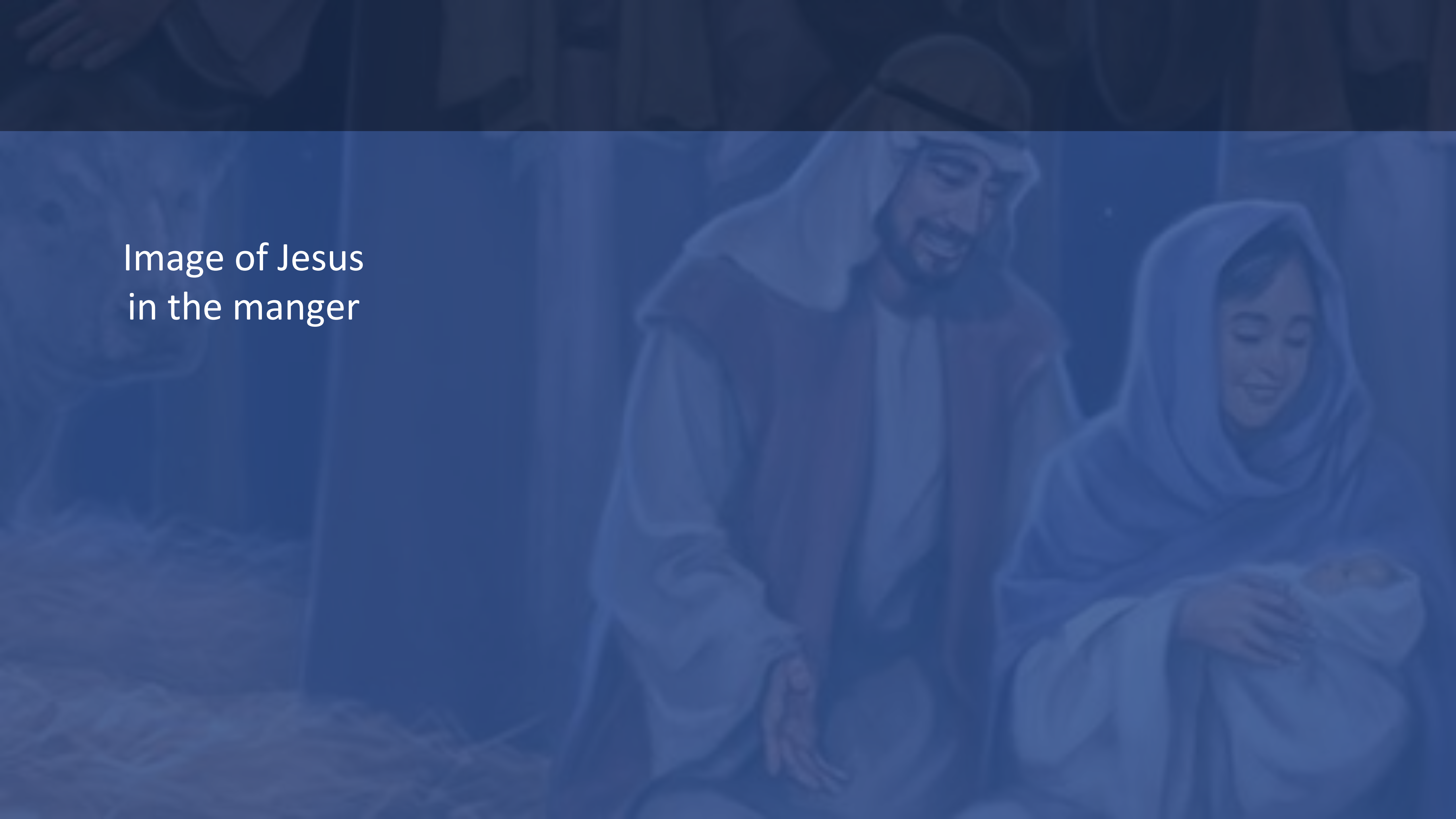




Image of Jesus
in the manger

Image of Jesus crucified



Image of Jesus on the cross.



What Child
Is This?



The Lord Draws Near to Us in
WORD and SACRAMENT.



Image of Jesus and
the Last Supper

*“Whoever eats
my flesh and
drinks my blood
remains in me,
and I in them.”*

- John 6:56

A blue-tinted illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a man with a beard and a head covering (Joseph) stands looking down at a woman (Mary) who is seated and holding a baby (Jesus) wrapped in swaddling clothes. To the left, another man is kneeling in prayer. The background shows a simple wooden structure, likely a manger or stable.

We LEAP FOR JOY that the Lord is NEAR!

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near.*

- Philippians 4:4-5