

Merry Christmas!

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In the beginning was the one
who is called the Word.
The Word was with God
and was truly God.
From the very beginning
the Word was with God.

And with this Word,
God created all things.

Nothing was made
without the Word.

Everything that was created
received its life from him,
and his life gave light to everyone.
The light keeps shining in the dark,
and darkness has never put it out.

The true light that shines on everyone
was coming into the world.

The Word was in the world,
but no one knew him,
though God had made the world
with his Word.

He came into his own world,
but his own nation
did not welcome him.

Yet some people accepted him
and put their faith in him.

So he gave them the right
to be the children of God.

They were not God's children
by nature
or because of any human desires.

God himself was the one
who made them his children.

The Word became a human being
and lived here with us.

We saw his true glory,
the glory of the only Son
of the Father.

From him all the kindness
and all the truth of God
have come down to us.

Because of all that the Son is, we have
been given one blessing after another. The
Law was given by Moses, but Jesus Christ
brought us undeserved kindness and
truth. No one has ever seen God. The only
Son, who is truly God and is closest to the
Father, has shown us what God is like.

John 1.1-5; 9-14; 16-18 (CEV)

The people who walked
in darkness

have seen a great light.

They lived in a land of shadows,
but now light is shining on them.

You have given them great joy, Lord;
you have made them happy.

They rejoice in what you have done,
as people rejoice

when they harvest grain or
when they divide captured wealth.

For you have broken the yoke
that burdened them
and the rod that beat their shoulders.

Isaiah 9.2-4a (TEV)