



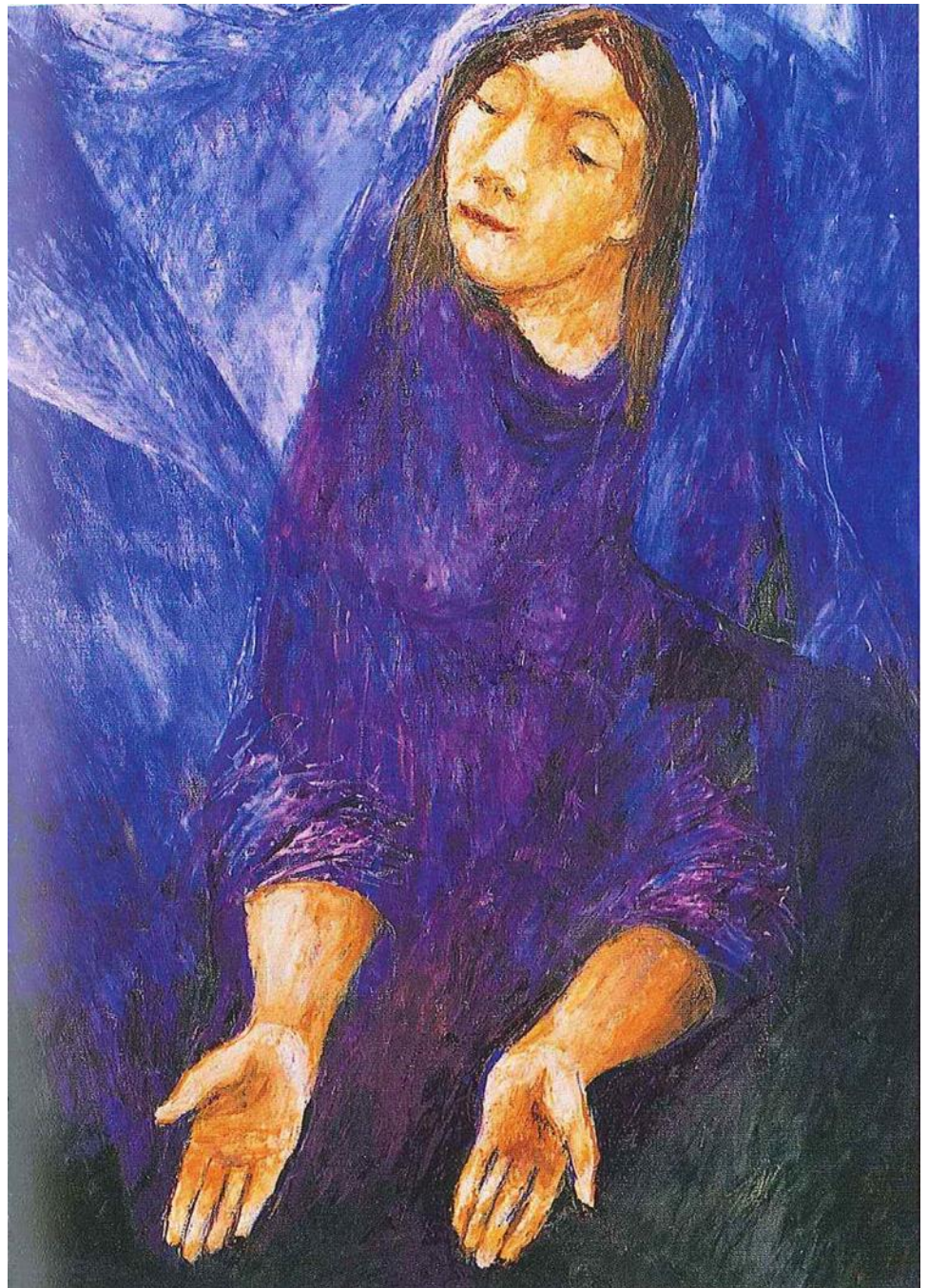
The Annunciation Of Mary and Joseph

Images for ppt use with Advent Resource: *These and notes are taken from Christ our Morning Star, Art and inspiration of Sieger Koder – Magdalen Lawler, Pauline Books & Media*

The Annunciation - Mary

The cool cerulean blue colour tones suggest the night sky and beauty of the stars.

Hovering between heaven and earth in her stillness, Mary raises her face to the Morning Star, closing her eyes to listen to God's desire for her, just as the angel has urged her to do.



The Annunciation – Joseph

Grounded in earthy tones of brown and ochre, Joseph lies in a deep darkness, lit only by the light radiating from Mary's hands.

These reach out appealing to Joseph for help as she kneels beside his bed, as she does in his dream.

Joseph, like his Hebrew namesake, shows us the power of dreams and that the dreams of our ancestors in faith are about to be fulfilled.



Joseph's hopes are fragile and his plans in turmoil.

His posture is the classic one of grief, cradling his head in his hands he looks for a way to get through the maze that is God's plan for him and Mary, contrary as it is to their social and religious expectations.

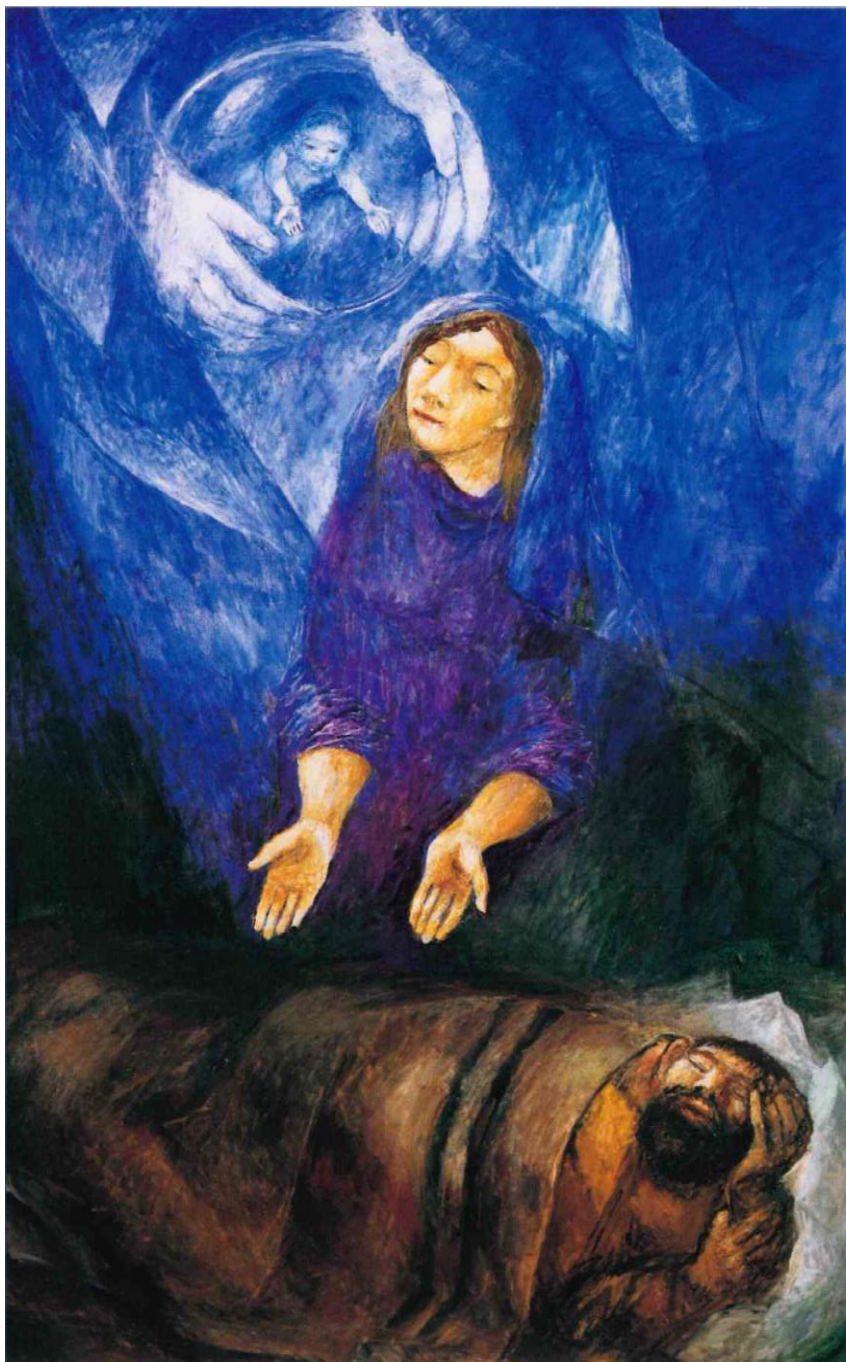
Like humanity he slumbers in a long sleep of waiting, longing to be called back from the brink of unconsciousness to the fullness of life.

Don't be afraid, is the message the angel brings to both Mary and Joseph. Fear is driven out by the assurance that God will accompany Mary in her call: 'Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine.' Isaiah 43:1

The Annunciation – Mary and Joseph

Mary is central to this picture, she occupies the central plane.

The child is to be seen enclosed in a sphere, evoking a new earth and a new cosmos, 'the bright Morning Star which never sets. Soon the child will take up residence in Mary's body and grow like any other child, dependent on her for life and warmth.



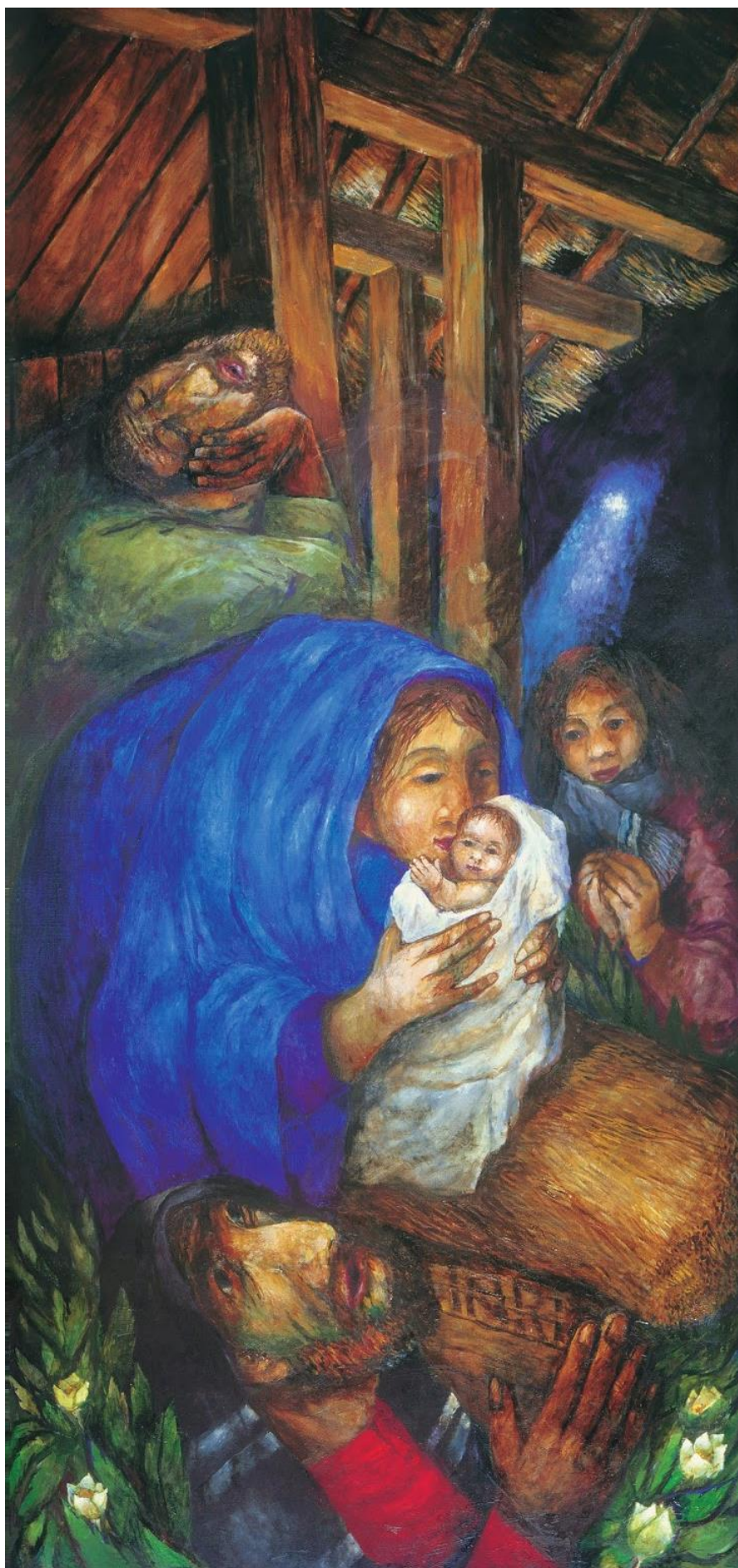
*Cry out with joy, O daughter of Zion; rejoice, O people of Israel!
Sing joyfully with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!*

*.... Do not be afraid nor let your hands tremble,
for the Lord your God is within you, the Lord a saving warrior. Zeph 3:14-15*

The Nativity

This is a traditional nativity setting with a twist. The action takes place in a stable, where the child is in a manger. Yet the cross-beam rises up as though from the hill of Calvary, to remind us of the fate that awaits the child.

The bright morning star sits in the sky casting light onto the child.

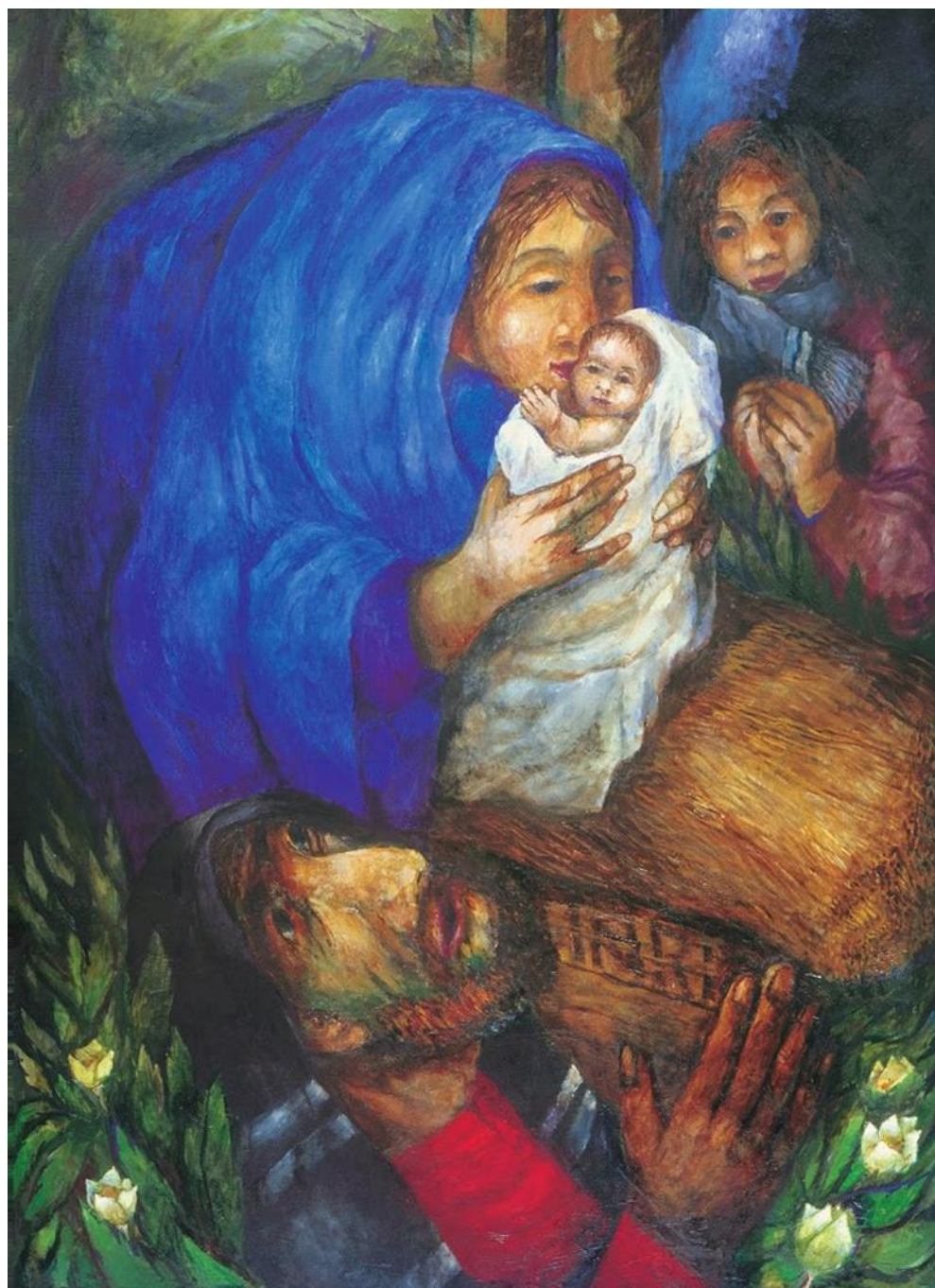


At the centre of the image, Mary is clothed in blue, and the child wrapped in white, to focus our attention and reflection.

Having lifted the child from the manger Mary places a gentle and loving kiss on his cheek. The tiny infant is for us the bread of life. lifted with gentle and loving hands.

This child is the food of all creatures, who will be crushed to become for us the bread of life.

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it produces much fruit. *Jn 12:24*



The manger is inscribed with the proclamation Pilate ordered to be pinned to the cross of Jesus: Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews. *Jn 19:19*

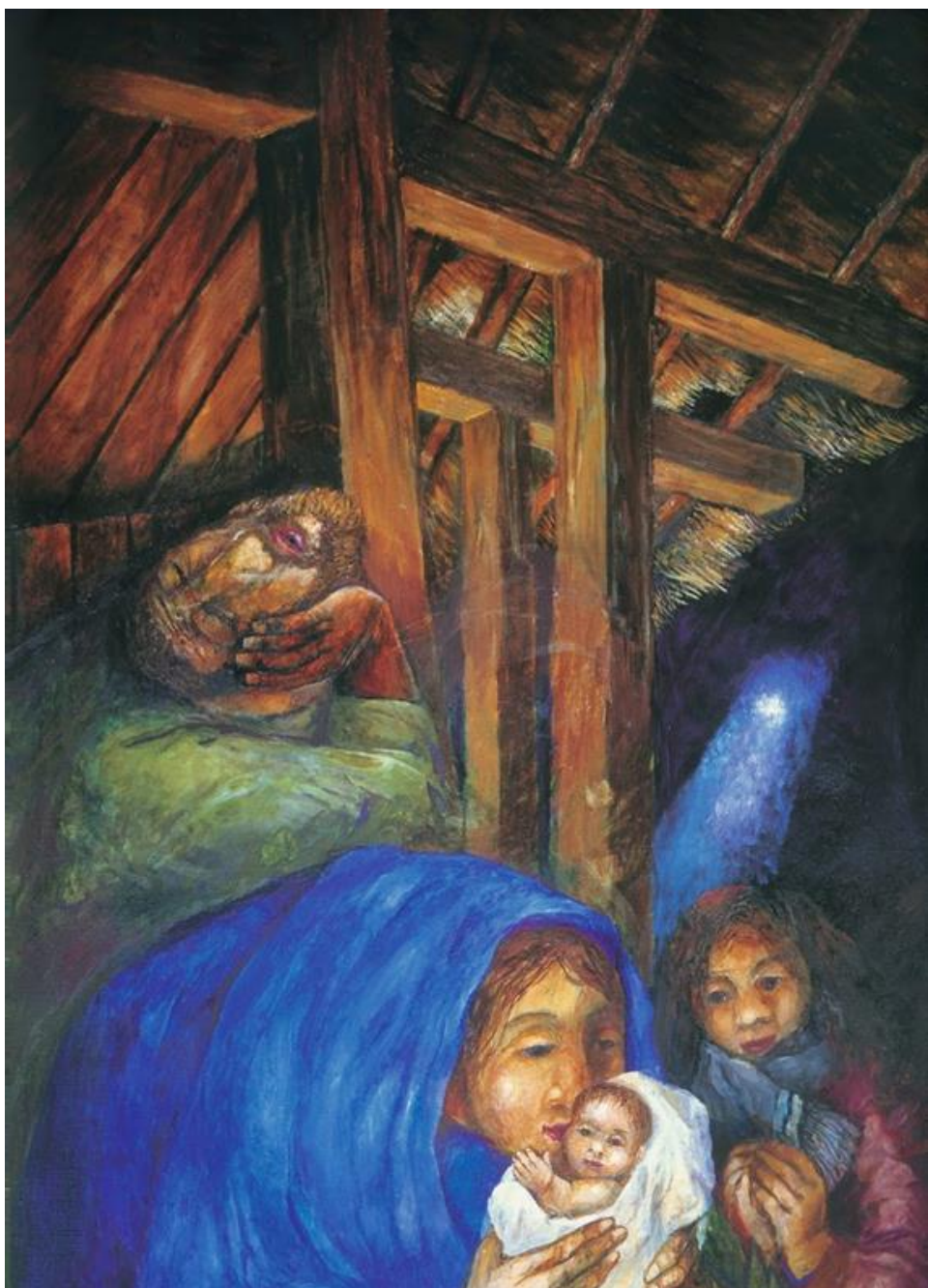
Both the old and the new law are shown at prayer before the solemn mystery. Isaiah, surrounded by the flowers of the desert, he is the one who predicted the virgin birth.

The child represents the new law – each of us leaning over the manger to gaze at this wonder with joy and delight.

‘I assure you that unless you become like little children you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. *Mtt 18:3*

This shepherd child has come to greet the shepherd king and claim her promised inheritance of the Kingdom.

Joseph, posed in the classic eastern gesture of grief, reminding us of the inner struggle he endured before being able to accept the angels message in a dream.



We enter the stable with bated breath, smelling the hay and the animals, but focussing on the child and his mother, listening to their heartbeats and the imagination of our own hearts. We allow the morning star to cast its light into our hearts as we enter this joyful and profound mystery of hope for all humanity.

*May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame burning:
Christ that Morning Star,
who came back from the dead,
and shed his peaceful light on all human kind,
your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever: Amen*