



The Annunciation to Mary

AVE MARIA

"Hail Mary full of grace,"
The angel Gabriel said
As the humble Virgin
Meekly bowed her head.

Your heart and faith are pure and strong;
God has a plan in mind.
For you to bear the Savior
Redeeming humankind.

Mary, lift your humble head
And wipe your tears away.
For 'tis a grace filled message
That greets your heart today.

God, high up in the heavens,
Has looked upon the earth
And now will enter human form
In the mystery of this birth.

The child you bear will be God's Son
And do this work divine.
He'll take all sin upon himself--
An act of love sublime.

Although you'll bear him as a child
He'll not be yours for long.
You'll see him sacrifice his life--
An atonement for our wrongs.

Although your heart will fill with joy
When your son is born.
Your heart will burn with sorrow
When you see him die in scorn.

So ponder now these many things
In this quiet hour
And contemplate the mystery
Of God's strange use of power--

Power shown through weakness
As he comes in human form—
His birth by you, a virgin child,
His body cruciform.

And yet in this great mystery
God shares with us his grace
Working out his purpose
To redeem the human race.

And you O Blessed Mary
Are the one he chose to use
To be the sacred vessel
Of this child we call Good News.

So once again at Christmas
As we celebrate his birth,
I'm thankful for your humble part
In joining heav'n and earth.

Through the mystery of this birth
God's love has come to me —
Jesus, God's incarnate love,
For all the world to see.

Mary, yes, you're full of grace
In that birthing hour,
And as that grace is born from you
God has unleashed his power.

Power to save, power to love,
Redeeming humankind.
The power of God unleashed on earth
Redeeming humankind.

C. Handlee Vige
Christmas 1997

Lynne, Beth, Tim and I wish you and your loved ones all the joy of this Holy Season. May the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, fill your life with the wonder of God's love each and every day of the year.

Peace and Joy in Christ,
Pastor Vige

Cover Line Drawing by Tim Vige