

Christmas 1998

VISIONS IN THE NIGHT

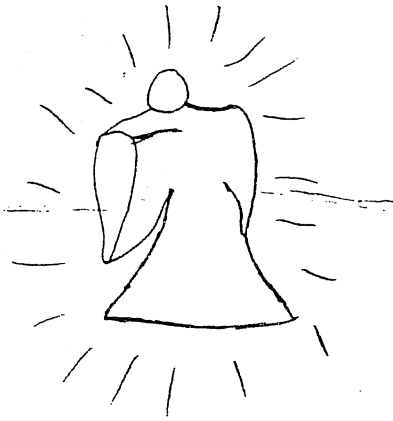
The word of God came to him
A vision in the night,
A whispered word of warning filled
With terror, awe and fright.

Murderous old King Herod had
Hatched himself a plan
To kill off all the baby boys
Who lived within his land.

The king had hatched this gruesome plot
When eastern sages came
To see a newborn baby King
Which stars announced aflame.

The whispered word to Joseph came
A vision in the night.
"Take young Mary and the child,
To Egypt make your flight.

There you shall in safety wait
Until the threat has past.
You'll then return from exile there
To be at home long last."



Retracing steps their people took
So many years before,
The holy family traveled far
Traversing desert floor

Into a land that had enslaved
God's people for so long
And filled their lives with misery
Until that night far gone

When God had raised his mighty hand
To set his people free.
In mighty acts of grace divine
God set his people free.

In this act he saved their race
And gave his solemn word
That this day and ever more
He would be their Lord.

*Visions in the Night is based on
St. Matthew 1:20-21 & 2:13*



He is the very lamb of God
Who sleeps upon the hay,
Who will take away the sins
Of mankind on that day

When God will raise him up to life
From sullen, darkened tomb
Making graves a birthing place--
The resurrection's womb.

And so on Christmas long ago
When Jesus Christ was born,
Joseph looked into the sky
To greet the new day's morn.

These visions would sustain him as
He faced the daunting call
To be the earthly father of
The Christ who saves us all.

And so this Christmas Day give thanks
For visions from of old.
In their word to Joseph, our
Redemption is foretold.

The word of God had come to him
A vision in the night,
A whispered word of wonder filled
With awesome, holy fright.

He saw his true love Mary fair
With child not his inside.
A fearsome wound cut deep within
His virile, manly pride.

Yet that vision spoke to him
Of God's great, loving plan
To send a Son into the world
As a humble man.

"Joseph," did the vision say
As he lay asleep,
"The child within dear Mary's womb
Is God's anointed sheep."

by C. Handlee Vige
Christmas 1998

*May the Christ foretold in prophecy and visions bring your life
peace, joy and hope this Christmas and throughout the coming
year.*

The Vigas

Pastor, Lynne, Beth and Tim