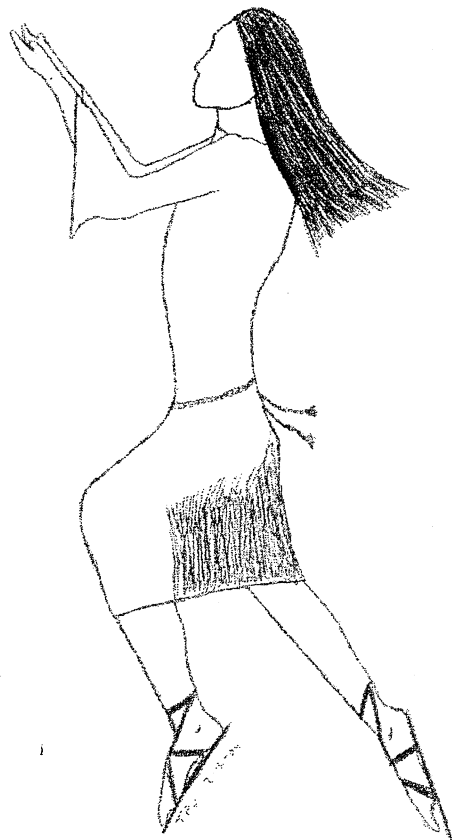


May we leap for Joy . . .



Christmas
2004

John Leaping in His Mother's Womb

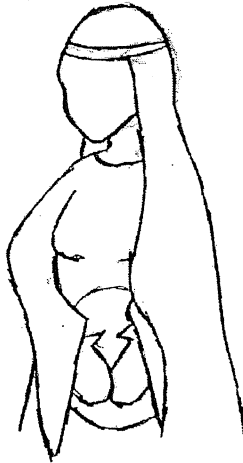
*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leaped in her womb. Luke 1: 41*

John leapt inside his mother's womb
When Mary came that day
To tell her kin Elizabeth --
A child was on the way.

Such joy would fill that humble house
As kindred spirits met
To share each other's joyful news
And for their births get set.

Elizabeth would be the one
Whose son would set the stage
Preparing us for Mary's son,
The Dawn of God's new age.

A herald in the wilderness,
Would be John's role to play.
*Repent...Be washed...Prepare your hearts
To meet the judgment day.*



His words were stark and challenging
And hearts were filled with fear
As John proclaimed the Lord's great Day
Was surely drawing near.

John thought the coming of that day
Would crush the faithless hoard,
Like wheat from chaff that would be riven
Upon God's threshing floor.

Imagine, then, John's great surprise
The day that Jesus came
And spoke of God in terms of love
Beyond the judgment's flame.

John wondered if he got it right,
If Jesus was God's Son,
And so disciples two sent he
To ask, "Are you the one?"



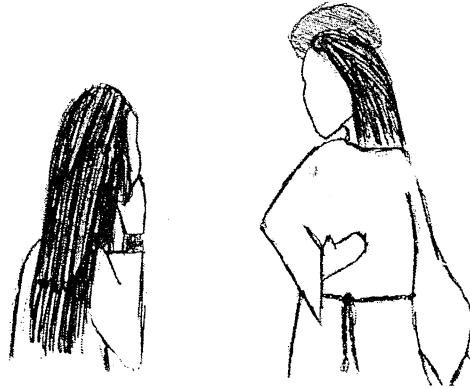
The answer Jesus gave for John
announced what eyes could see.
*The blind get sight, the lame now walk...
The Kingdom's come in me.*

As Christmas comes again this year
Like John, we wonder too,
If Jesus truly is God's Son
Who brings us life anew.

The answer Jesus gives to us
Is there for all to see.
Through all his acts of love and grace
To us, he says, "I'm he."

And so we to the manger come
With humble heart and mind,
And as we look inside the trough
God's love we there do find.

So on this Christmas once again
We see in Jesus' face
That wondrous love by John foretold,
Repent, make way for grace.



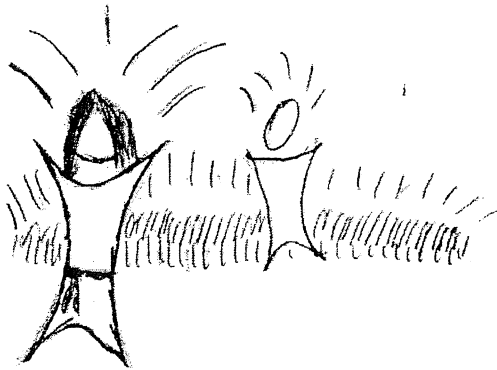
John leapt inside his mother's womb
When Mary came that day
To tell her kin Elizabeth --
The Christ is on the way.

Now may that joy for which John leapt
Inspire our hearts today
To leap for joy and sing God's praise
For child upon the hay.

For in that birth in Bethlehem
Those many years ago,
The love of God came down to earth
The seeds of grace to sow...

That you and I might life be given
With God forever more --
Our sins forgiven, our souls set free,
He's ope'd the Kingdom's door.

© C. Handlee Vige
Christmas 2004



As you prepare to greet the Christ-child at Christmas, may your celebration be filled with all the joy of God's love given to us in the birth of our Lord.

The Viges
Pastor, Lynne, Beth and Tim

Interpretive Line Drawings by Tim