

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.



The Census at Bethlehem -- Pieter Brueghel the Elder, Brussels Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels, Belgium

Joseph also went ... to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

Luke 2:4ac



Difficult Journey – Transition to Bethelehem – Fritz von Uhde, Neue Pinakothek, Munich, Germany

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.



While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.



No Room in the Inn -- Peter Busch, Sand sculpture, Canary Islands, Spain

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



The Birth of Christ

Margret Hofheinz-Döring
Wikimedia Commons



Nativity -- Parliament House, Brisbane, Australia

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Shepherdess (detail from Annunciation to the Shepherds)

Book of Hours of Charles VIII Hispanic Digital Library Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.



Shepherds

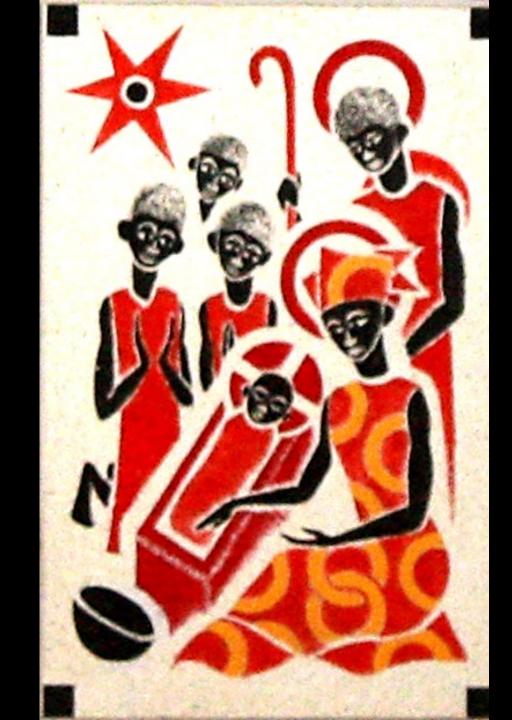
John August Swanson

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:



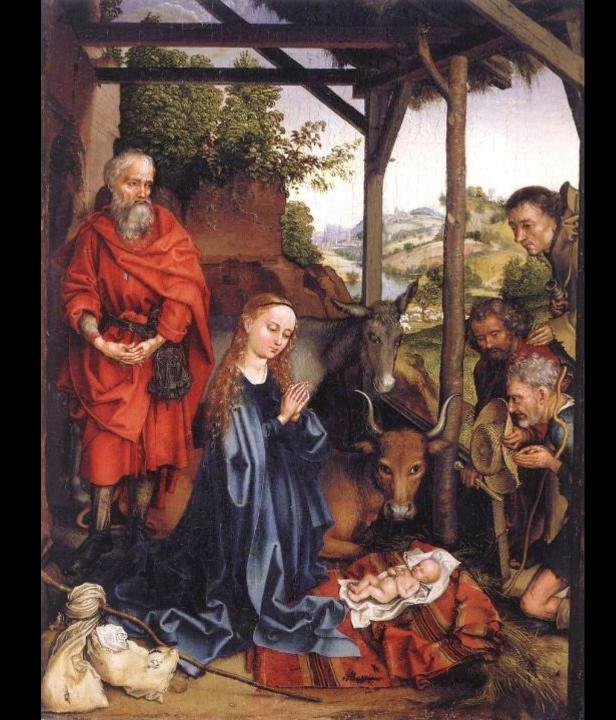
Joy to the World, the Lord is Come -- Illustration from Dem. Republic of Congo

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.



Christ is Born

Father Georges Saget Keur Moussa Abbey Keur Moussa, Senegal This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."



Birth of Christ

Martin Schongauer Gemaldegalerie Berlin, Germany And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

THE WAY OF JOY II. The Annunciation to the Shepherds by an Angel (Luke 2:8-12)

Filipino painting from display of enculturated sacred art

Manila Cathedral Manila, Philippines "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



Annunciation to the Shepherds

Les Tres Riches Heures du duc de Berry Musée Condé Chantilly, France ... the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

Luke 2:15b



Birth of Jesus with the Shepherds -- JESUS MAFA, Cameroon

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

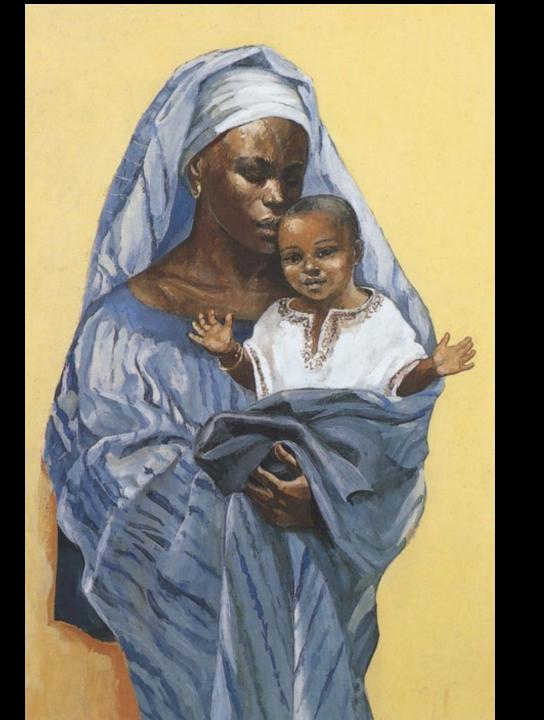


Adoration of the Child -- Gerard van Honthorst, Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed ...

Luke 2:17, 18a

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.



Madonna and Child

JESUS MAFA, Cameroon

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