

# CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2022

## Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow!

### Christmas with the Spirituals

“Amen, Amen, Amen”

#### Scripture: St. John 1:1-5, 11-14 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> The Word was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being

<sup>4</sup> through the Word was life,  
and the life was the light for all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light...

<sup>11</sup> The light came to his own people,  
and his own people didn't welcome him.

<sup>12</sup> But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children,

<sup>13</sup> born not from blood  
nor from human desire or passion,  
but born from God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

## ~ SERMON NOTES ~

These deep and ponderous words from the prologue to St. John's Gospel are designed to tell us something very significant occurred when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, something beyond human comprehension:

**1. Christmas was God's premise \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"In the beginning was the Word..."*

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**2. Christmas is God's promise \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light..."*

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**3. Christmas fulfilled God's purpose \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"The Word became flesh and made his home among us."*

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