

REFLECTION IN THE STABLE

If you sit very still,
watch closely
and listen carefully,
you might see and hear
something wonderful
something unpredictable
something miraculous

You might see a family
who've travelled long
alone and anxious
seeking shelter, safety
a warm welcome
a comfortable bed

You might hear
people tense and fearful
the sound of boots marching
and shields clanging
the Roman army
who rule this land

Listen closely
You might hear
many doors closing
but one door opening
a family offering refuge
a place out the back
a simple kindness

You might hear
restless animals
mooing and braying
You might smell
dusty straw
and damp manure
no silent night here!

You might hear
a mother crying in pain
as a baby is born
You might see
the blood, sweat and tears
of love for a precious child

Watch carefully
See Mary and Joseph
clasping their new-born
sighing but glad
remembering a promise
that this is God's Son!

Listen closely
and you might hear
angels' singing
shepherds' laughing
Herod scheming
wise men dreaming

Watch carefully
See Mary and Joseph
remember a prophet's voice:
"For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Might God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."

Listen and watch
God became one of us
God is with us
bringing hope and compassion
justice and peace
and a new beginning
This child is God's gift
to us and our world