

“**And** [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son  
**and** wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
**and** laid him in a manger.

[The shepherds] went with hast  
**and** found Mary  
**and** Joseph,  
**and** the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child  
**and** all who hear it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Mary treasured all these words **and** pondered them in her heart.  
The shepherd returned, glorifying **and** praising God.  
(Luke 2)

At Christmas we wonder at the holy “**and**” that God gifts the world.

Notice how many times this simple word connects;  
Linking words, sentences, people, actions, places, moments in time.

“**and**” -  
a simple three letter conjunction  
connecting one with another.

We see this word - “**and**”  
then look with anticipation  
What is to follow?  
What will be next?  
What is included?  
What is connected?

“**and**”  
reflects this Christmas wonder -  
God’s great “**and**”.

For the world was created in love,  
**and**  
the world messes with this love by greed, power, hoarding, war.  
**and**  
God does not let go.

**AND**  
with great love,  
God becomes human too,  
Jesus – God **and** human  
Immanuel,  
God-with-us  
God and us.

God **and** you **and** me **and** them **and** theirs **and** ....

Blessed Christmas. May “**and**” be a gift to you.

Pr. Elaine