

# ***Abundance in the Manger***

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by Julie L. Williams

Beloved Lord,

Thank You so much for the rich, lavish, priceless gift of Your son, Jesus. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.”* Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

This Christmas season may we be drawn to the manger, to the place where heaven was delivered to earth. A gift beyond the magnitude of our understanding, the heart of heaven dwelling with us.

Lord, thank You for overcoming all barriers & obstacles that have separated us and kept us from You. Thank You for not coming within the gates of guarded palace, but to the meekness of the manger where even lowly shepherd could freely come.

Come. Lord, let us come. Help us to come to You this Christmas. May we receive the invitation to come with open ears, with willing heart, with resolved mind, and with provoked passion to pursue You.

Lord, wherever the paths of our lives, the conditions of our circumstances, find us this present season, may our ears be tuned in to hear the call to come.

From our shame, from our guilt, from our failings & our shortcomings, from our uncertainties, from our exhaustion, let us come.

From our hurts, from our pains, from our brokenness, from our division, from our wounds, let us come.

From our past, from our achievements, from our defeats, from our histories, from our homes, let us come.

From our talents, from our workplaces, from our storehouses, from our communities, from our families, let us come.

From our fears, from our grief, from our distractions, from our worries, from our anxieties, let us come.

May we respond to the invitation to come, to behold, and to receive.

In the meager manger, abundance beyond our wildest imagining awaits.

*“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)*

Come for redemption. Come for forgiveness. Come for healing. Come for miracles.

Come to see. Come to hear. Come to taste. Come to be nourished.

Come for reconciliation. Come for hope. Come for peace. Come for freedom.

Come for victory. Come for strength. Come for power. Come for provision.

Come for wholeness. Come for kindness. Come for gentleness. Come for faithfulness.

Come for patience. Come for endurance. Come for faithfulness. Come for self control.

Come for discipline. Come for wisdom. Come for discernment. Come for knowledge.

Come for family. Come for support. Come for unity. Come for remembrance.

Come for joy. Come for encouragement. Come for refreshment. Come for contentment.

Come for life. Come for eternity. Come for love.

Abundance.

All these gifts and so much more, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Lord, may we come to Your abundance. May we fall on our knees, covered by Your light and wrapped in Your love. May we feel Your enveloping embrace that rescues us from the darkness. May we feel the most resilient security and trust in Your presence.

May our voices join with the multitude this Christmas in praise:

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:14 (NIV)*

In the abundant name of Jesus Christ, beloved Son, given for us, amen.