

O is for oxen

so humble and strong

Who stood by the child
all the night long,

Leading the donkey, the
cows and the ewes

In harmonies sweet so
to share the good news.



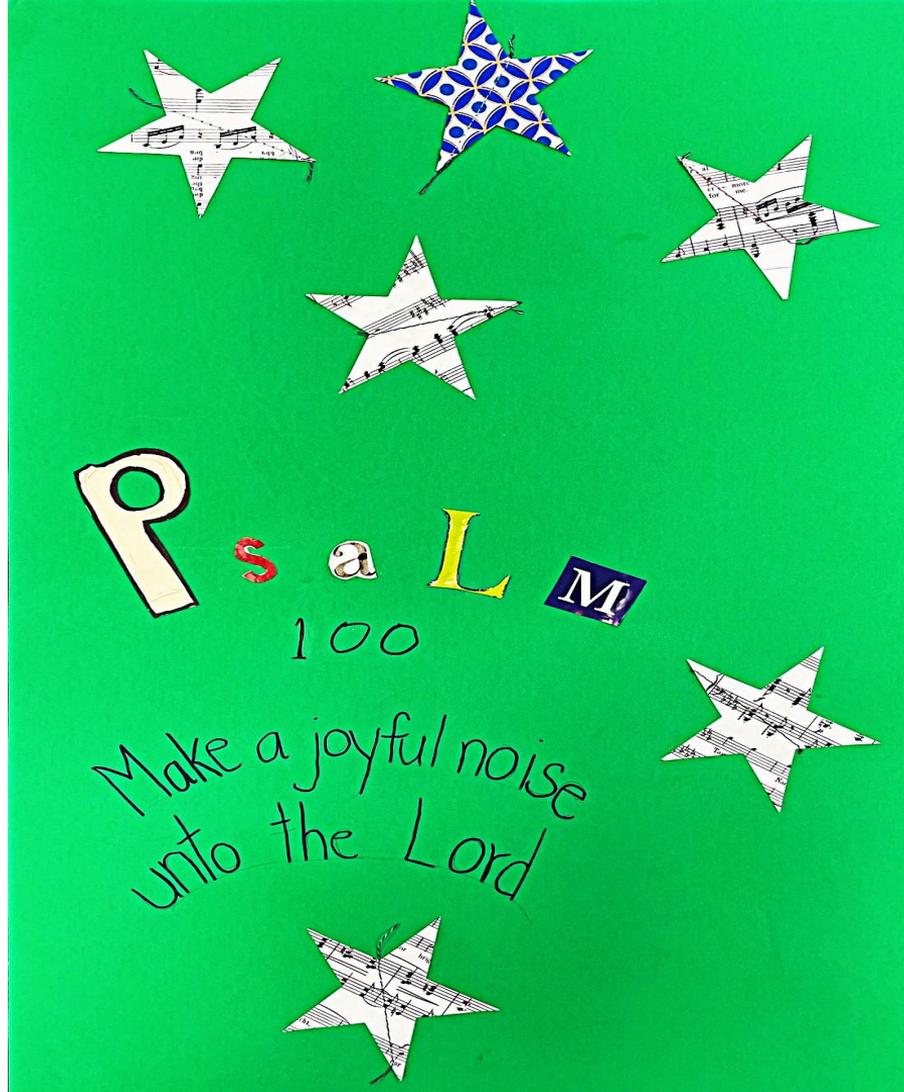
P is for Psalm

a song of elation

For all of God's love, filling
creation.

Aardvark and mountain,
earthworm and thunder

Singing glad praise for the
child full of wonder.



Q is for quiet

a moment to treasure,

When the love is so
deep there's no point to
measure,

Mary and Joseph and
Jesus together,

Suspended in time, love
tethered forever.



R is for Rudolph

whose nose shining
bright

Showed up
unannounced at the
manger that night.

Both Matthew and Luke
objecting, "no way!"

But Jesus declaring him
welcome to stay.



S is for **silent**
and **silver** and
sky

A soft song of comfort, a
sweet lullaby,

Filling the heavens with
the depth of love's
essence,

Promising always God's
strong tender presence.

S

Silent Silver Sky



T is for trumpet,

Gabriel's first choice

For proclaiming his joy
and giving it voice.

Lifting his horn to the
stars up above,

He played jazzy riffs that
"got down" in love.



U

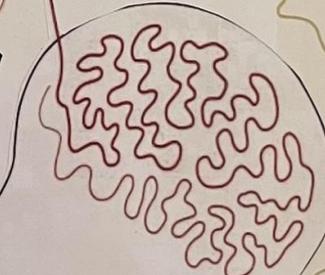
Un-becoming



Un-learning



Un-doing



U is for "un,"

a deep letting go

Of all of the things we
already know.

Un-doing, un-becoming,
un-sure and un-knowing,

The wild love of God in
our hearts thus
bestowing.

V is for **vibrant,**

a brilliant bright star

Leading the kings who
came from afar.

Leading us too no matter
our messes

To the love that forever
transforms and blesses.



W is for **wonder**,

the mystery beholding,

Opening our hearts to
the story unfolding,

A story so deep and so
true and so wide,

It laughs at our pretense
and sweeps us inside.



X is for **xenia**,

a startling Greek word

Opening our hearts to
what's never been heard;

That those who are hosts
are also the guests,

And the guests are the
hosts, with everyone
blessed.



X marks the
spot,

where such folly is
known,

The child in the hay... a
king on a throne,

A king whose whole
being is earthbound and
near,

So all of creation would
know Love is here.



And Y is for Yangtze,

a river whose depths

Sometimes obscures the presence of death.

But if you would listen, this porpoise makes clear

How human endeavors have caused him to fear.

And if you ask why we would speak of such things

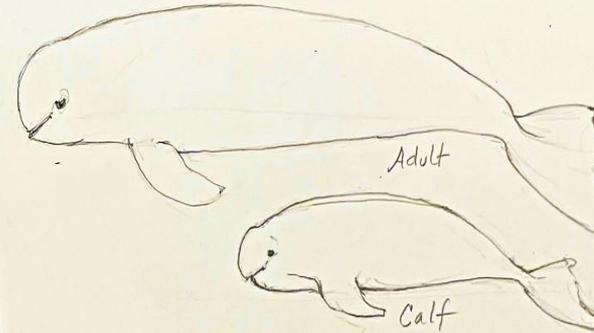
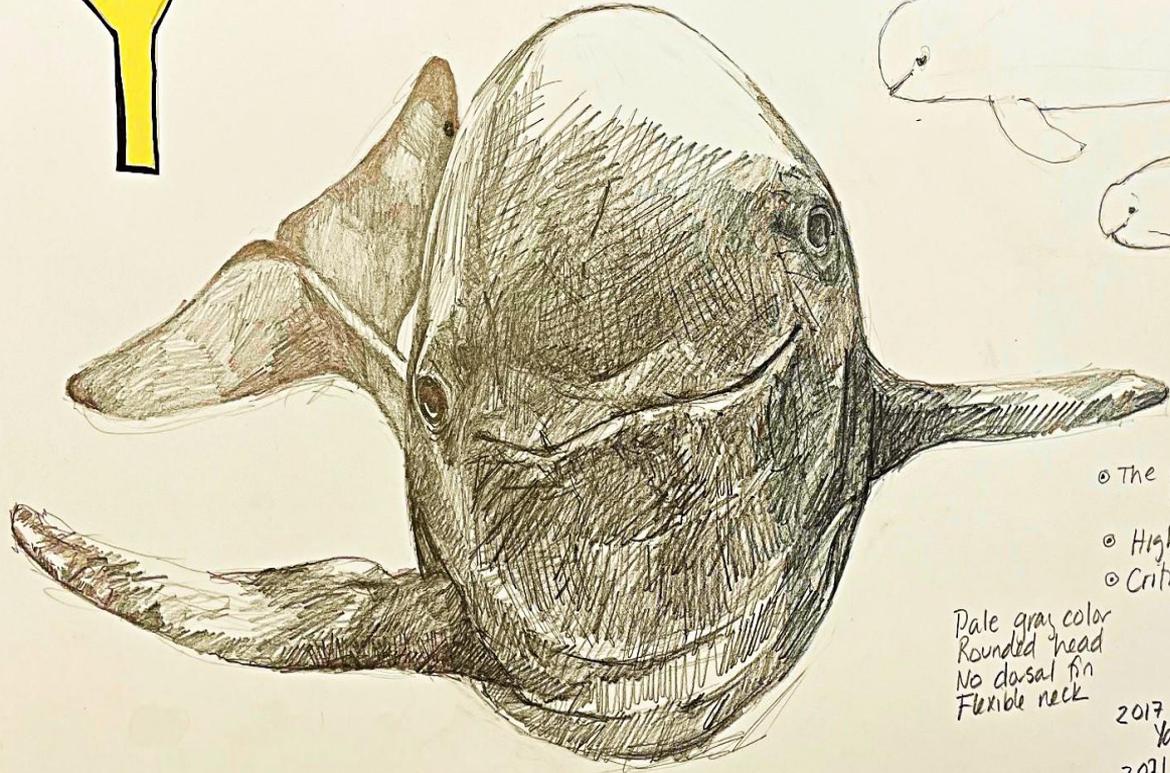
On this night of great hope and the gifts that it brings,

I would just tell you that Jesus is crying,

For all of God's creatures suffering and dying.

Y

YANGTZE RIVER FINLESS PORPOISE



- The only freshwater porpoise in the world
- Highly intelligent
- Critically endangered

Pale gray color
Rounded head
No dorsal fin
Flexible neck

2017 Sand mining banned in part
Yangtze critical ingredient for b
2021 Yangtze River protection law
bans all fishing in Yangtze R

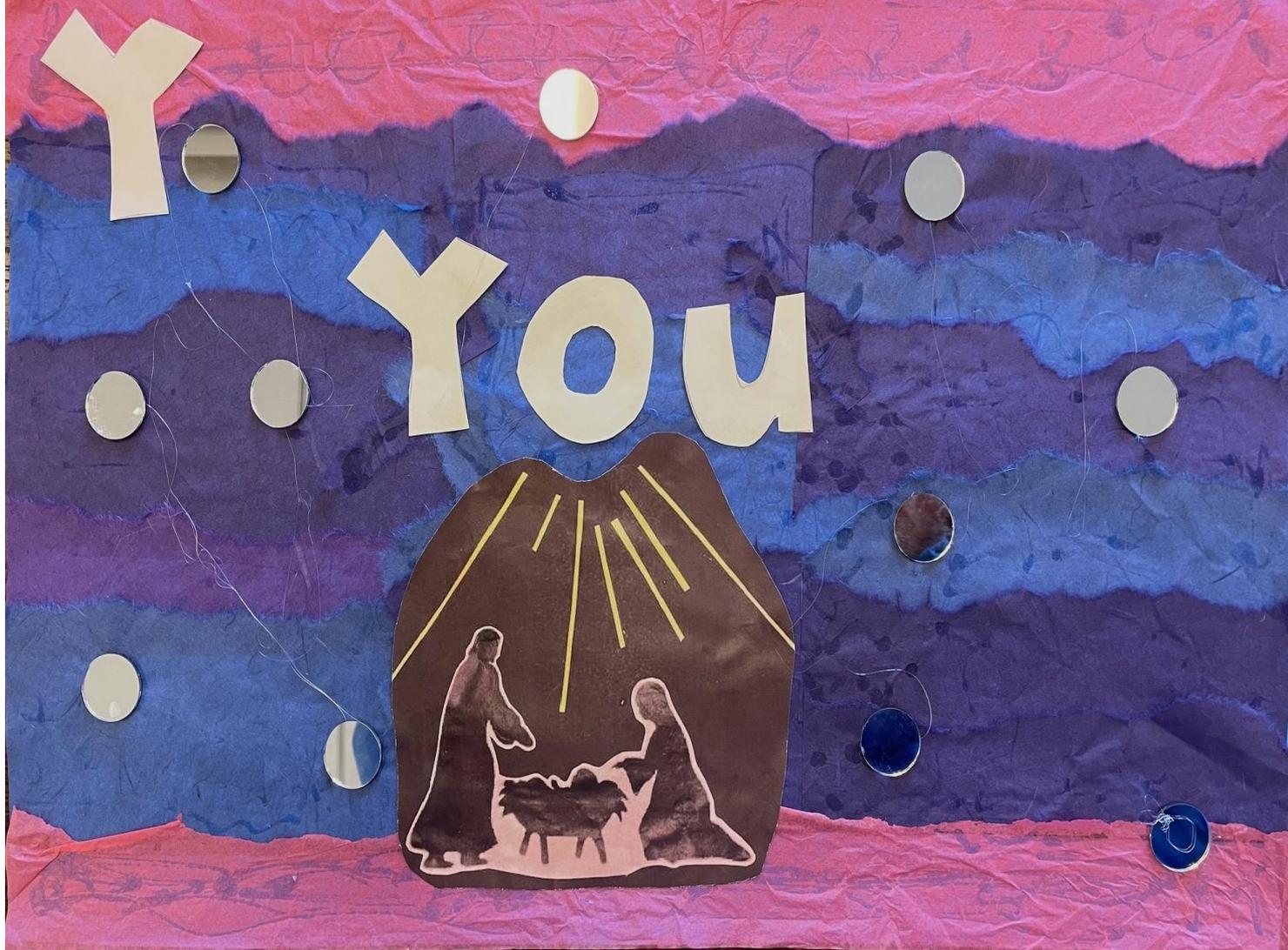
Illegal fishing + mining reported; habitat loss contin
entaillement + bycatch continues, but there has
some regeneration of this species and thus hop

And **Y** is for
You,

the reason for glory,

'cause if you look very
close,

You'll see you in the
story!



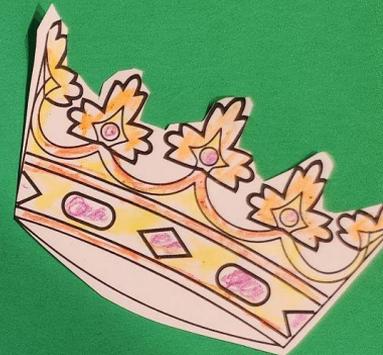
Z is for
Zoroastrian,
Zodiac and
Zeus,

The mysteries the Magi
were keen to deduce.

A cosmos of wonders
with so many faces,

All of them held in the
child's wild embraces.

Z



IS FOR **ZOROASTRIANS**



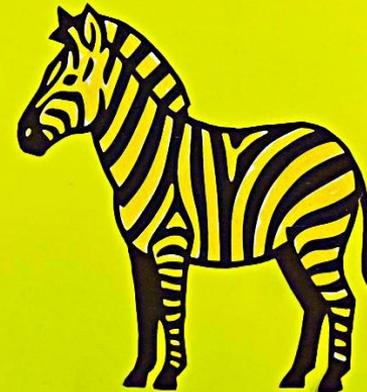
Z is for zebra

in colors galore

Making the manger a
wide open door

To all of creation, all
creatures embraced

And held in God's mercy,
God's love and God's
grace.



JESUS LOVES
ZEBRAS IN
ALL COLORS

Z

Z is for Zechariah

whose gift of deep seeing

Opened his eyes to the
heart of God's being,

Showing him light with the
dawn of salvation,

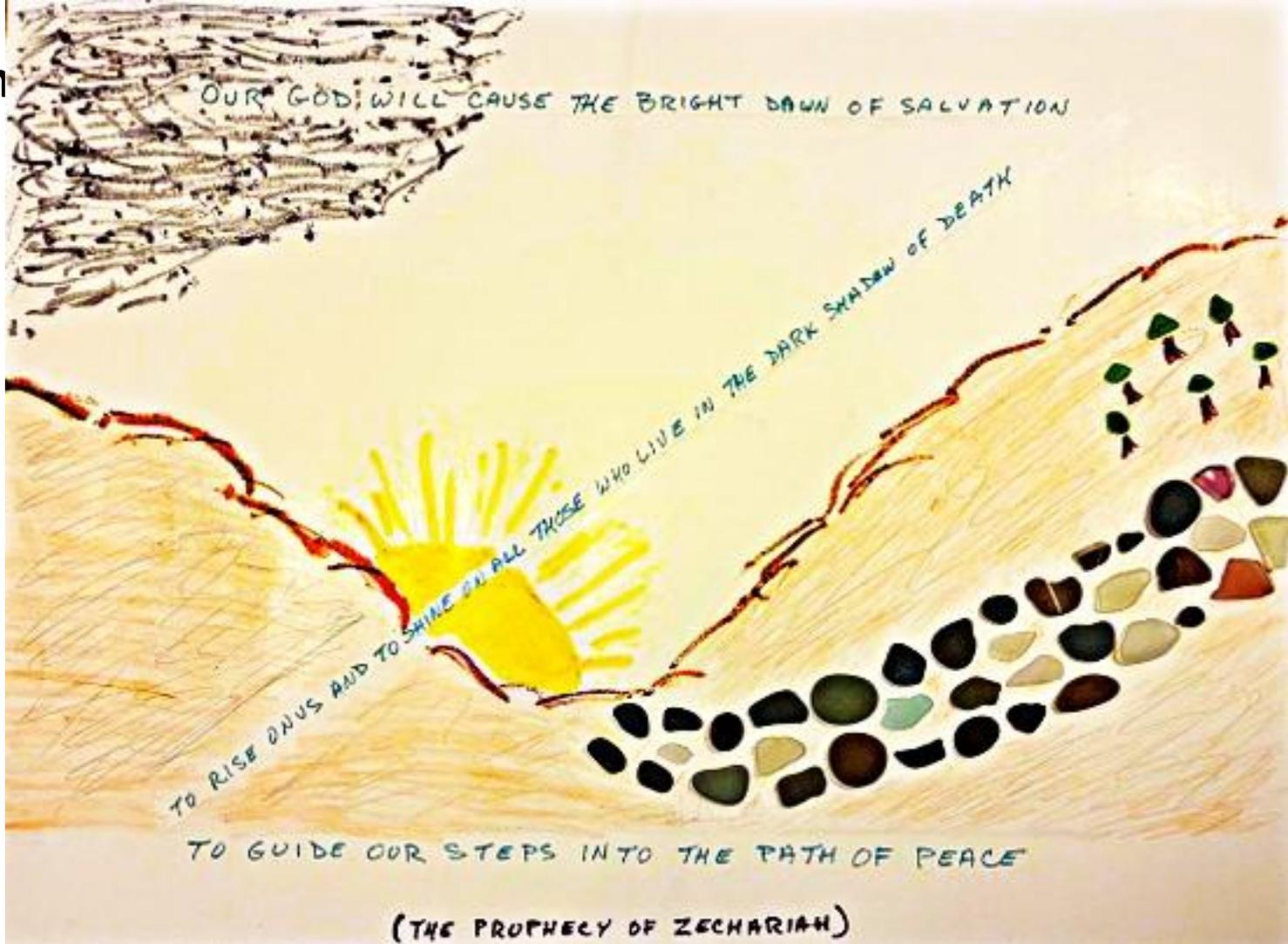
Come to the world through
God's incarnation...

The message still true and
free for receiving

If in our hearts we're ripe
for conceiving...

In the way of peace our
steps ever guiding,

Born in our hearts, Jesus
abiding.



And even at **Z**,
often the
ending,

We trust in the love God
always is sending

In Jesus the babe, born
in a stall

To open the way for one
and for all

Because **A** is
for **all**, the
point of the
story...

