

Visit From an Angel

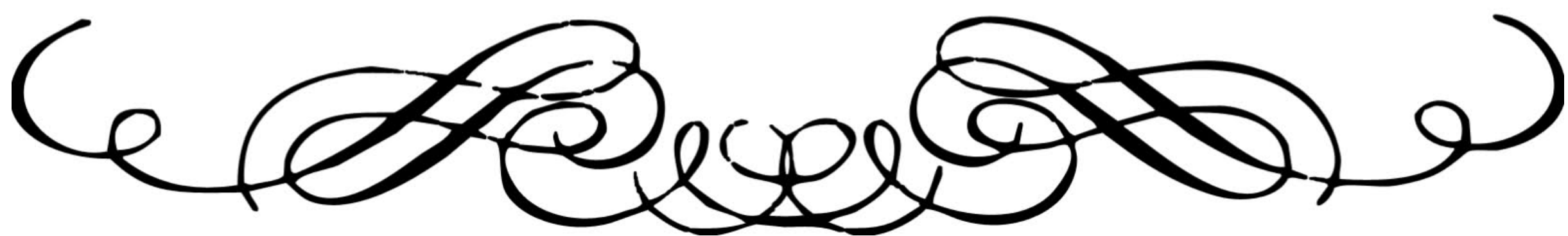
The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

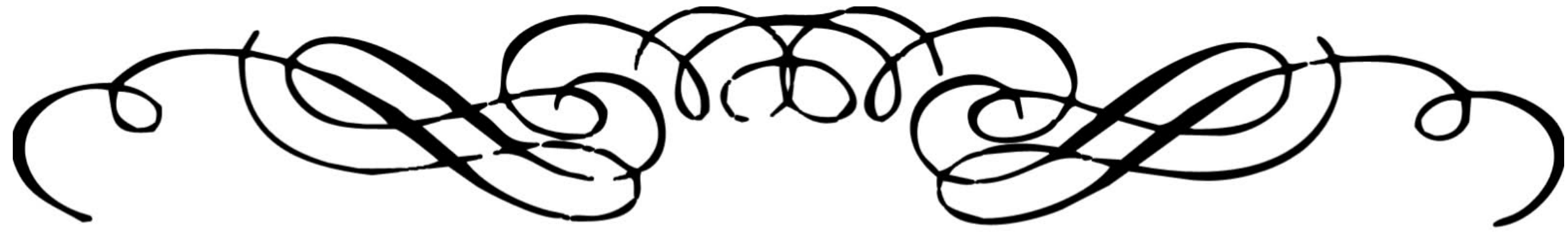
-Luke 1:30-33

Dear God,

Just as the angel gave Mary a message of hope that would come to the world through the birth of Jesus, fill our hearts with that same hope for the future of your kingdom. Throughout the season of Advent may we ponder ways in which we might act as messenger's of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Amen





Journey to Bethlehem

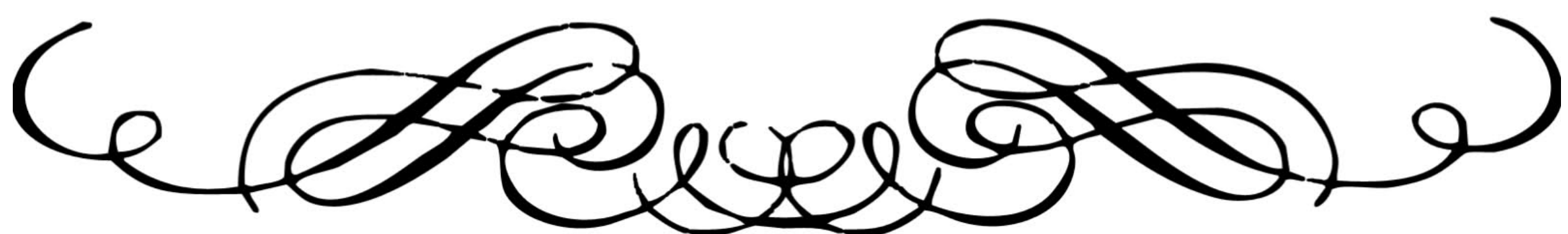
All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

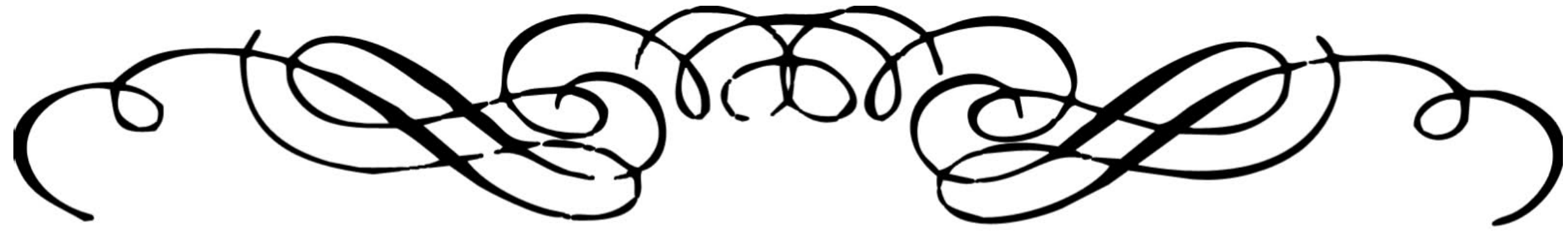
-Luke 2:3-5

Dear God,

We know you are with us as we journey through the season of Advent. Help us to navigate what sometimes is a bumpy road. Remind us to seek out your goodness in the world and remind us to pray for those we encounter along our path.

Amen



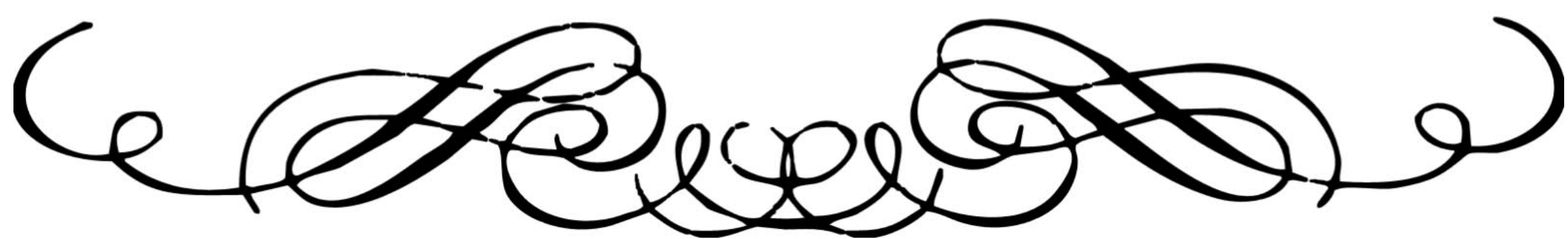


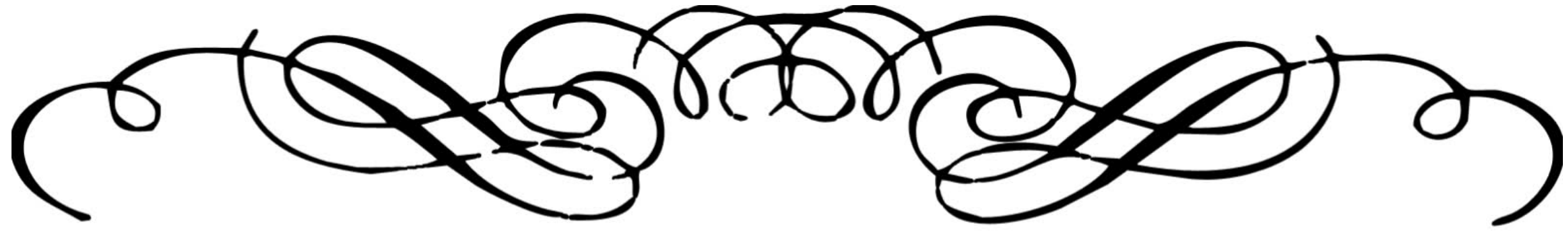
Born in a Manger

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

-Luke 2:7

Dear Lord,
Make us your Bethlehem. Send your son, Jesus, to be born in our hearts just as he was born in a manger all those years ago. Remind us that there is always room in your kingdom for those whom the world casts aside.
Amen





Shepherds in the Fields

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

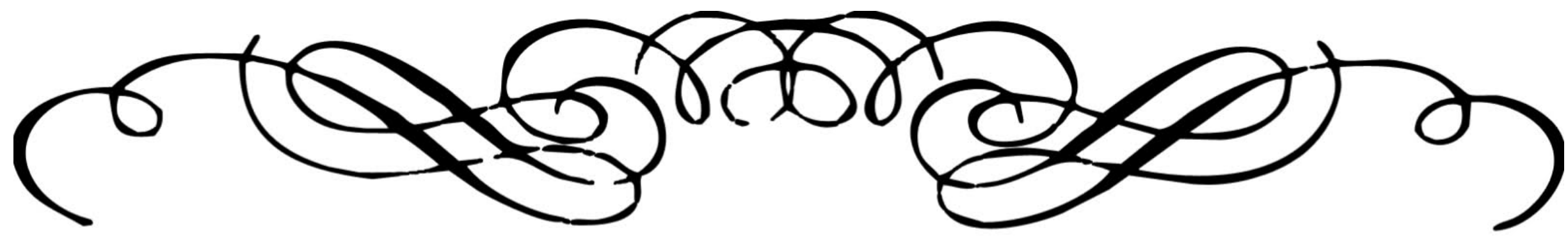
-Luke 2:8-11

Dear Lord,

Thank you for sending us your angels who bring joy and remind us not to be afraid. As we complete the tasks that make up our daily lives, help us to look beyond the mundane and seek out those signs of your glory in the heavens above.

Amen





Gifts for a King

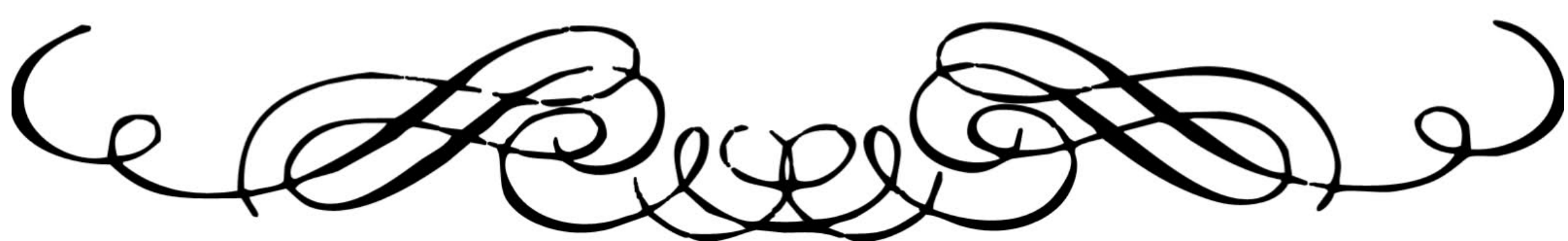
...and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

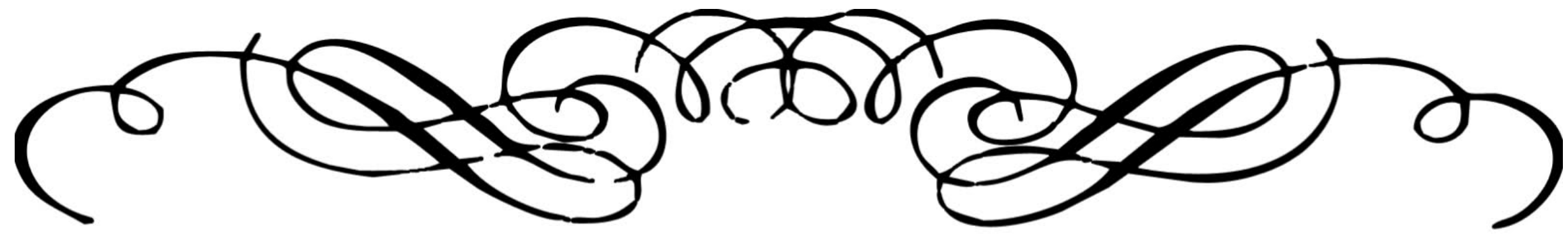
-Matthew 2:9-11

Dear God,

You are the light of the world that shows us the way to walk in your truth and righteousness. During this season of giving, help us find ways that we can share not only material things, but those gifts which bring joy and peace to others.

Amen





At the Cradle

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. -Luke 2:12

Dear Lord,

We can only imagine what it would have been like to sit down by the manger on that holiest of nights. Help us to hold the precious gift of your son in our hearts as we go through our lives. Thank you for this sign of your love that lay nestled so humbly in a manger.

Amen

