

(READ SLOWLY & PRAYERFULLY)

A READING from the Gospel according to John, Chapter 1.

The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word.
The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.

Everything was created through him;
nothing - not one thing! - came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. ...

... The Life-Light was the real thing:
Every person entering Life he brings into Light.
He was in the world, the world was there through him,
and yet the world didn't even notice.

He came to his own people, but they didn't want him.

But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do
what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves.

These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-
begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood, and **moved into the neighbourhood.**

We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

... The Word of the Lord.

(Translation: The Message; John 1:1-5, 9-14)