



THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS



Ted Dawson

A CHRISTMAS COLORING BOOK

Story by Christina Villa Illustrations by Ted Dawson



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IN THE DARKNESS**

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It was Christmas Eve at Lily and Max's house.



Lily and Max and their dad and grandma
live on a farm, far from the city.



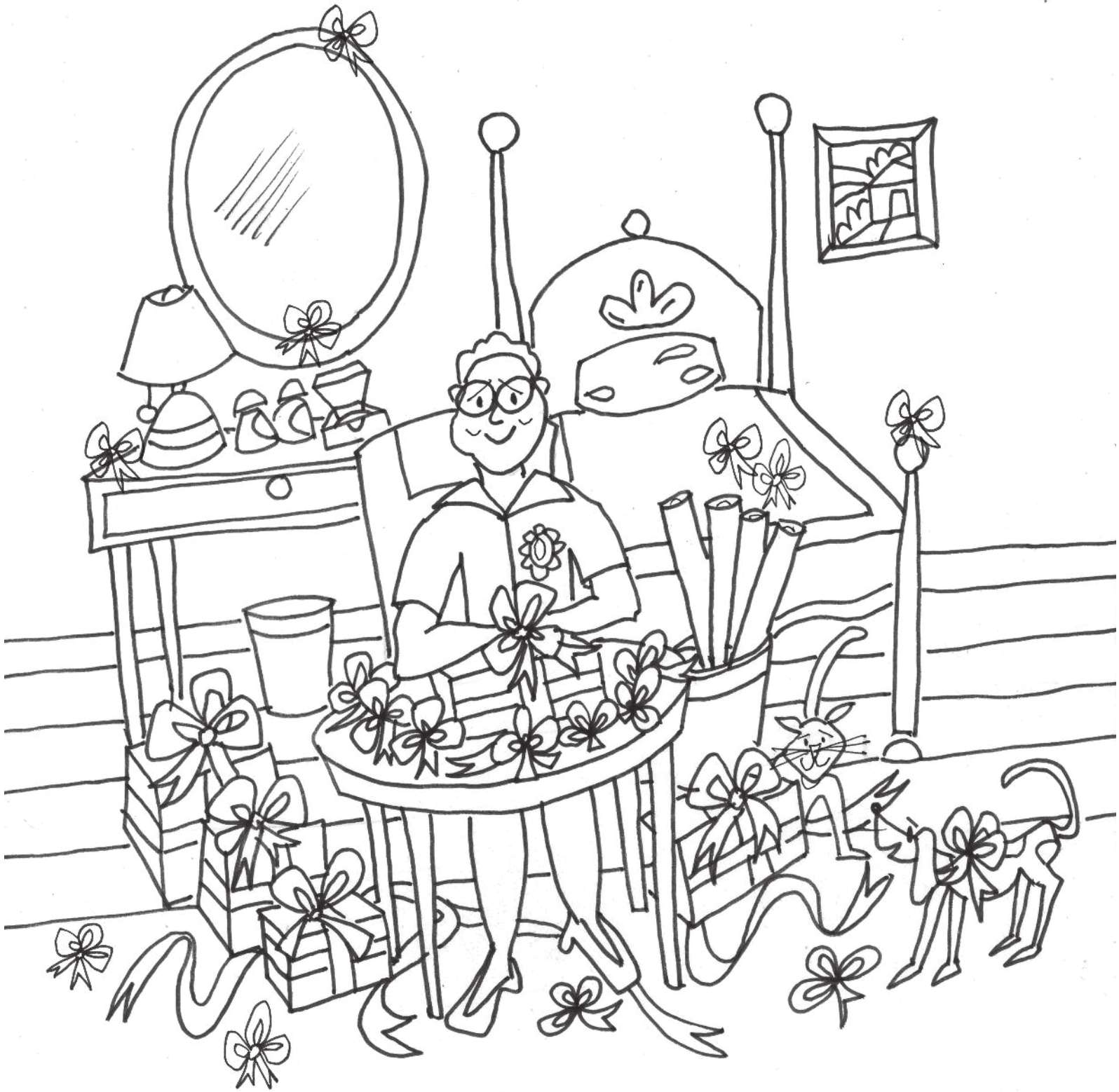
Outside, there are no streetlights or traffic lights.



There is only the light of the moon and stars.



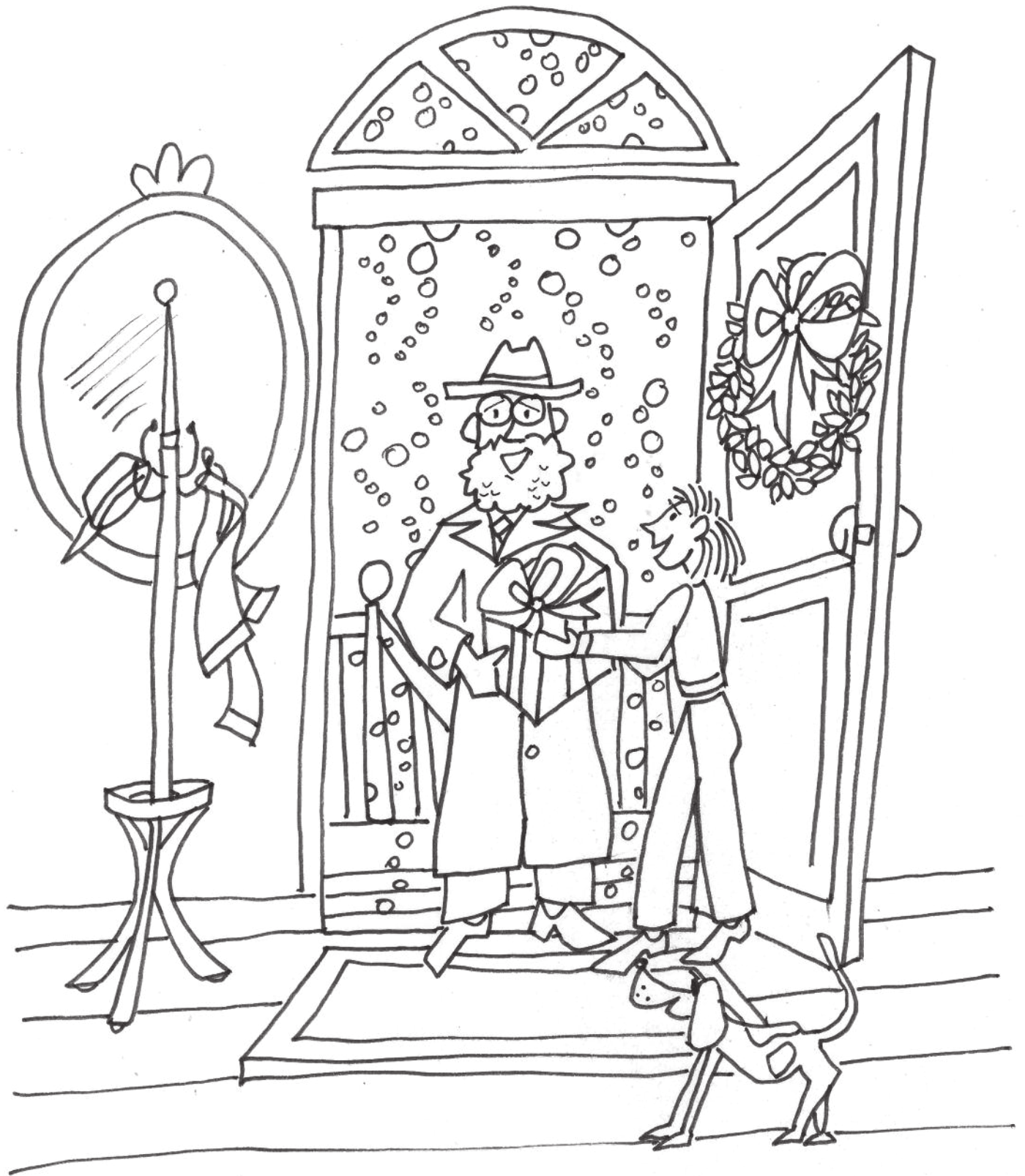
Inside, Dad is in the kitchen cooking up their annual Christmas Eve dinner with neighbors and friends.



Upstairs, Grandma is wrapping presents.
Stick-on bows are everywhere!



Outside in the barn, the cows and the sheep
and the chickens sleep and dream peacefully
or watch the snow starting to fall.



Inside, the doorbell rings and it's their neighbor, Mr. Winkowski, who lives alone and is very old and very shy. "I made you a fruitcake," he said, handing Lily an odd-shaped but brightly-wrapped package.



Next their friends from church:
Marta, Darius, Jasmine, Joshua and Dave all pile in.



Finally, Mr. Nuñez, Lily and Max's school principal, arrives.
It's his first Christmas in their town and he doesn't
know very many people.



While everyone was hugging and shaking hands and saying "Merry Christmas!" and taking off their coats and hats and scarves... the lights on the tree and in the house flickered and went out!



"Uh oh," said Dad. "What happened?" cried Lily.
Everyone stood there adjusting their eyes to the darkness
and the light of the moon coming in through the window.



Lily said, "It sure doesn't feel like Christmas without the lights on the tree. When are they coming back on?"



"Maybe we should all go home," said Marta.
Everyone was disappointed until finally Max said,
"Wait! Before you leave,... let's go outside.
We can look at the stars, and maybe sing a Christmas carol?"



Outside the moon and stars were so bright that everyone could see clearly—just like daytime, but . . . different. Everyone stood silently for a while, taking in the night sky.



"Let's see. What should we sing? Suggestions?"
asked Darius. Darius was the choir director at church and
loved to get people singing.



**SILENT NIGHT,
HOLY NIGHT**

Then, very quietly, Mr. Winkowski started to sing:
"Silent night, holy night . . ."

ALL IS CALM,
ALL IS BRIGHT



"All is calm," the others joined in. "All is bright."



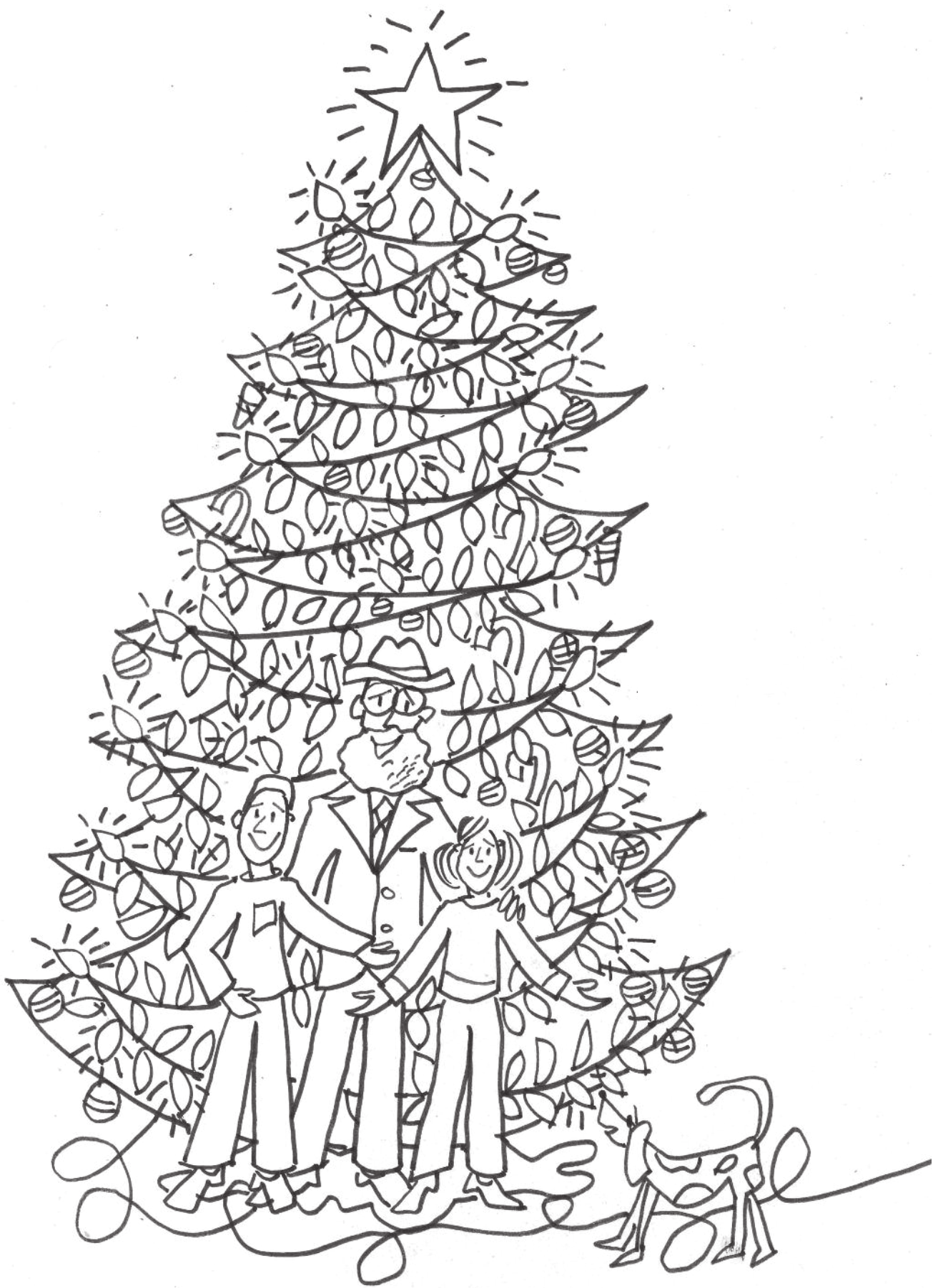
Some of the animals in the barn woke up and lifted their heads at the sound of the singing.



"Now, this kind of feels like . . . Christmas," said Lily.
"I know what you mean," said Mr. Nuñez.
"It feels EXACTLY like Christmas."



"The light of the moon and stars are signs of God's love coming into the world with the birth of the Christ child," said Jasmine.
"And the shepherds probably followed light just like this when they came to visit the baby in the manger," said Max.



Then suddenly the lights came back on! Everybody cheered!
Mr. Winkowski said, "You know, it's not the lights on the
Christmas tree that make Christmas special."



"At Christmas, we take a little more time to show we love and care for each other. The light of love that's inside of us comes from God."





“And God’s light NEVER goes out!” said Lily.



★ THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world for over 115 years. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in compassion to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and who now find themselves facing worrisome financial needs. The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, on behalf of the whole church, passes on this direct support so that these needs may be met and our support may be felt.

Through your gifts to the Christmas Fund, you can help ensure that “The Light Shines in the Darkness” for those who have so faithfully served our church.

We have developed this coloring book to help United Church of Christ congregations tell the story of the light of God coming into the world. Illustrations were created by Ted Dawson, a member of Judson Memorial Church in New York City, and the story was written by Christina Villa, Philanthropy Associate for the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ.

Additional copies of this coloring book can be downloaded for free at www.christmasfund.org or purchased at www.uccresources.com.



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