

Silent night

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [December 19, 2018](#) issue

The old tradition says  
at Christ's birthing  
there was utter silence.  
The whole created world  
was still. For an hour.  
Even choirs of angels  
went quiet.  
It seems fitting  
in the infant face  
of incomprehensibility  
to forego language,  
sound, even song.  
Into *stille nacht*  
that tiny spark,  
the Word, dropped  
into kindling flesh,  
set afire everything  
we thought we knew  
about God.