**John 1:1-18 NIV, MSG, TPT**

Arranged by Kathryn Higgins

A readers-theater style arrangement of John 1:1-18 as read in the New International Version, The Message and The Passion Translation. For three voices, this piece would work well in place of a scripture reading or setting up the message. Gender neutral.

### MSG The Life-Light.

TPT The Living Expression.

NIV The Word Became Flesh.

(Beat)

NIV In the beginning,

TPT -the very beginning-

NIV -was the Word.

MSG The Word was first,

TPT -the *Living Expression*was already there.

NIV And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

TPT They were together—*face-to-face*,

NIV -in the beginning.

TPT -in the very beginning.

MSG -from day one.

NIV Through him all things were made;

TPT -all things-

MSG Everything was created through him;

NIV Without him nothing was made that has been made.

TPT -nothing has existence apart from him!

MSG nothing—not one thing!

NIV In him was life,

TPT Life came into being because of him,

NIV -and that life was the light of all mankind.

MSG Light to live by.

TPT For his life is light for all humanity.

MSG The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;

TPT -bursts through gloom,

NIV -shines, and the darkness has not overcomeit.

MSG The darkness couldn’t put it out.

(Beat)

NIV There was a man sent from God,

TPT -a messenger,

NIV -a witness,

NIV -whose name was John,

MSG -sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light,

NIV -to testify concerning that light,

TPT -and to help everyone believe.

MSG -to show everyone where to look,

TPT to point the way to the Light of Life.

(Beat)

NIV He himself was not the light,

TPT -but he came to show who is.

MSG He was there to show the way to the Light.

NIV The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

MSG The Life-Light - the real thing-

TPT -about to come into the world and shine upon everyone.

(Beat)

TPT He entered into the very world he created,

NIV He was in the world,

TPT -yet the world was unaware.

NIV Though the world was made through him-

MSG -the world didn’t even notice.

NIV The world did not recognize him.

MSG He came to his own people,

TPT -the very people he created-

MSG -but they didn’t want him.

TPT They did not receive him.

NIV Yet to all who did receive him,

MSG -whoever did want him,

NIV -those who believed in his name,

MSG -who believed he was who he claimed-

TPT -who embraced him-

MSG -and would do what he said,

NIV -he gave the right to become children of God-

MSG -their true selves, their child-of-God selves.

NIV -children born not of natural descent,

MSG -not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten,

NIV -nor of human decision - but born of God.

TPT *He* was born of God.

MSG The Word became flesh and blood,

TPT -became a man-

NIV -and made his dwelling among us-

TPT -lived among us-

MSG -moved into the neighborhood.

(Beat)

NIV We have seen his glory,

TPT -and we gazed upon the splendor.

MSG With our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory,

NIV -the glory of the one and only Son,

TPT - who came from the Father

MSG -like Father, like Son,

NIV -full of grace and truth,

MSG -true from start to finish,

TPT -overflowing with tender mercy.

MSG Generous inside and out.

(Beat)

TPT John taught the truth about him,

NIV -testified concerning him-

MSG -pointed him out and called,

NIV “This is the one I spoke about,

TPT “He’s the One!”

MSG “The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me.”

TPT “For he existed before I was even born.”

MSG “He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word.”

TPT “Set your hearts on him!”

(Beat)

TPT And now out of his fullness we are fulfilled!

NIV We have all received grace in place of grace already given.

MSG We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift,

TPT -grace heaped upon more grace!

NIV For the law was given through Moses;

MSG We got the basics-

TPT -but Jesus, the Anointed One,

MSG -the Messiah-

TPT -unveils truth wrapped in tender mercy-

NIV -grace and truth-

MSG This endless knowing and understanding all this came through Jesus.

(Beat)

NIV No one has ever seen God,

TPT No one has ever gazed upon the fullness of God’s splendor,

MSG -not so much as a glimpse-

TPT -except the uniquely beloved Son,

NIV -the one and only.

MSG This one-of-a-kind God-Expression,

NIV -who is himself God andis in closest relationship with the Father,

MSG -who exists at the very heart of the Father,

TPT -has unfolded to us the full explanation of who God truly is!

NIV Known.

MSG Plain as day.

END