



# JOURNEY THE CHRISTMAS **PATH**

---

An Outdoor Worship Service Experience

---





# WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS PATH

---

Our prayer for you is that you will use this path to reflect on the meaning of Christmas in an authentic and meaningful way.

If you are using this app at home or on your own along the prayer path — welcome!

While walking the path, we encourage you to reflect on your own journey of faith and trust in God.

How does the journey of your life draw you toward God? Have there been times of discouragement and doubt?

Where do you turn in times of uncertainty, fatigue and fear? How do you share joy in your journey of faith?

## GUIDELINES

While in person and travelling through the path in your group, you may choose to take turns with the readings, hum, or clap along with familiar carols.

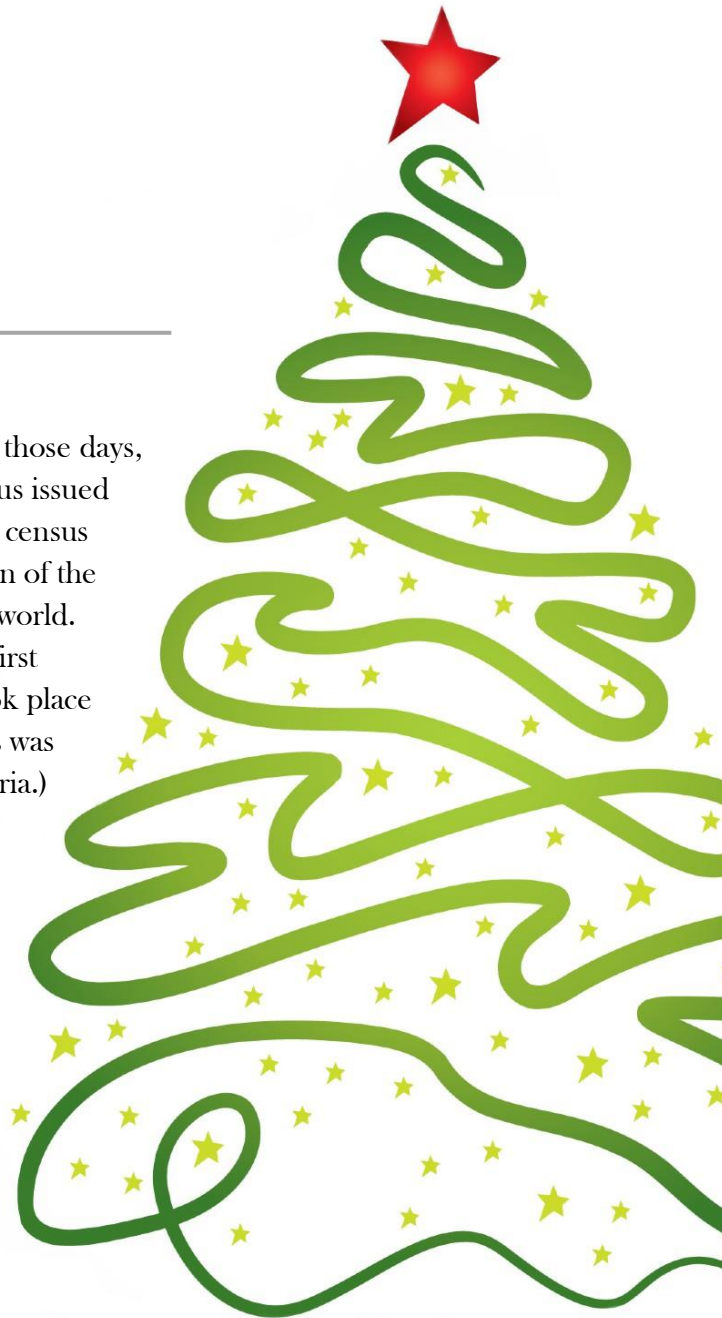
If you are near another group with members outside your cohort, please remember to maintain 2 meters of distance.

## CENTURION

Luke 2:1-3: In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirnius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

## SONG

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
(See lyrics on page 8)



# STATION ONE

## WONDERING, WAITING, SEEKING

---

**INTRO:** Greeted by a 'Magi' Actor.

**SET:** A large trunk with a wiseman sitting on it reading a scroll. Inside the trunk — three treasures (gold, frankincense and myrrh with information about each item on the object: gold, for royalty on earth; frankincense, a symbol of deity; and myrrh, embalming oil foretelling suffering and sacrifice).

**MAGI:** (sitting on trunk looking at a scroll) Oh hello ... (looking up from scroll) Are you searching too? Have you seen any signs in the night sky? We have been waiting for generations, watching for signs and reading the prophets. I know that there is a Savior coming into the world. When I see the sign, I will get this caravan on the road. We are gathering gifts for the one true King. Do you want to see my treasures? (opens chest and audience reads out loud the symbolism of each gift) ...

**MAGI:** When we see the star, we will confirm where to go and find the palace of this new King ... Hmmm ... But sometimes I wonder if it will ever happen ... Do you think God has forgotten us? That doesn't seem possible. To be honest, this journey will be a big leap of faith. But, what is faith - yes, it is **confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see**. Let's read together some of my story:

**ISAIAH 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

**MICAH 5:2** But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-24** Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**MATTHEW 2:1** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

**REFLECTION QUESTION** How will you continue your walk of faith and where do you turn in times of wondering, waiting and needing to seek?

**SONG** We Three Kings (See lyrics on page 8)



# STATION TWO

## TIRED, WEAK AND AFRAID

---

**SET:** A stump or stool for Mary to sit on.

**MARY:** (speaking to Joseph) I'm tired, cold and frightened. I need to rest.

**JOSEPH:** Let's rest here. (Looks over at the audience) Would you like to hear our story?

**MARY:** I don't want to complain, it has just been so hard these last few months.

**JOSEPH:** It all started when I found out that Mary was pregnant. It didn't add up. I was going to break the engagement, but .... that's when things got really interesting. An angel appeared to me. I was so shocked that I was told to marry her. You see, the angel told me this baby was the Son of God. He was to be the Savior of the world. By faith, I took a leap and here we are today (smiling at Mary and audience).

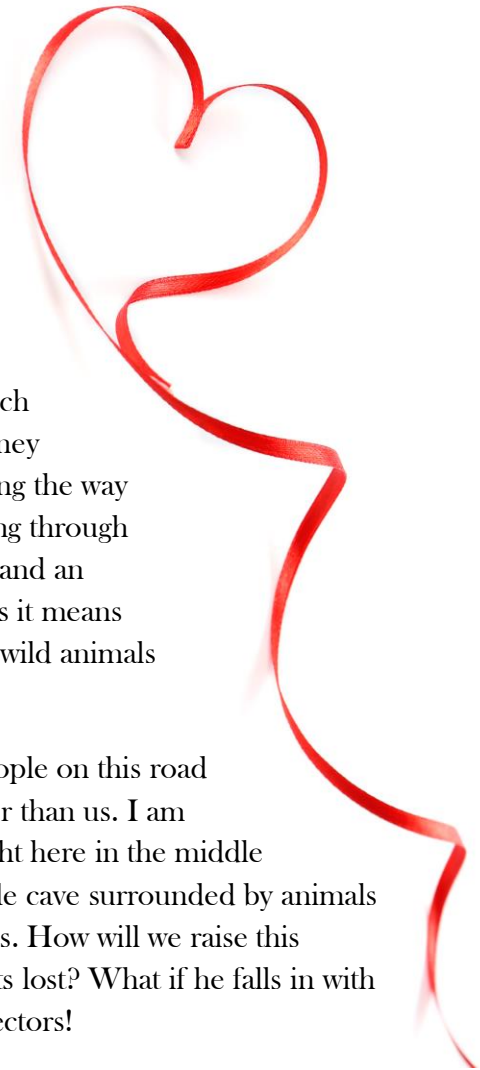
**MARY:** An angel had already appeared to me and I was in on the plan. At first, I was confused, but then I had faith. I was so happy. I sang praises to God for all that he had done for me and my people. But then things got hard, we had to leave Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem. As you can see, I am weak, tired and pregnant.

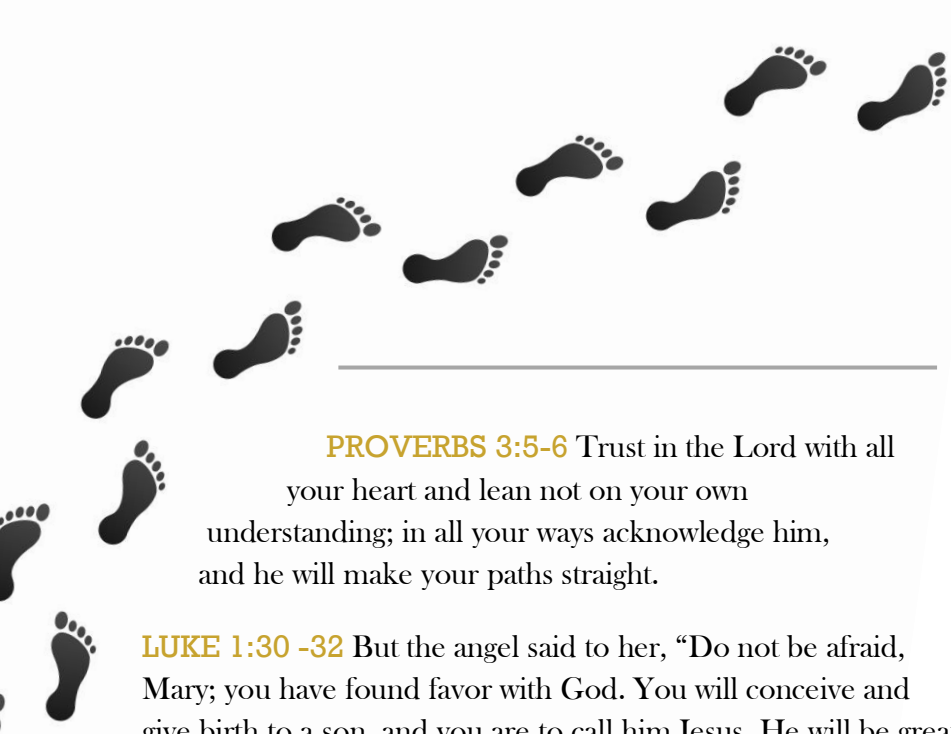
---

**JOSEPH:** We weren't sure which way to go. It is such a long journey and we need to find homes along the way to stay in. We always avoid going through Samaria — they are an unclean and an unfaithful people. But to bypass it means more uncertainty and risk with wild animals or robbers along the way.

**MARY:** There are so many people on this road and they all seem to move faster than us. I am afraid this baby will be born right here in the middle of the road or in some dirty little cave surrounded by animals being prepared for the sacrifices. How will we raise this God/man child? What if he gets lost? What if he falls in with sinners or worse still — tax collectors!

**JOSEPH:** Is this the plan God has for us? I really need to lean on faith and His strength and protection on this journey. To be honest, **this is a big step of faith, but as they say, faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not see.**





**PROVERBS 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

**LUKE 1:30 -32** But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High.”

**LUKE 2:4-5** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

**REFLECTION QUESTION** How will you continue your walk of faith and where will you turn in times of weakness, fatigue and fear?

**SONG** Mary Did You Know? (See lyrics on page 9)

# STATION THREE

## FALLEN, FORGOTTEN, ALONE

**SET:** Shepherds, goats, some small logs/stools to sit on.

**SHEPHERD 1:** (sneering) I see you looking at us (to the audience). Yes, we are shepherds. There was a time when shepherds were the leaders of faith — the great forefathers of the tribes. Now you look at us and see us as fallen to low places, all but forgotten.

**SHEPHERD 2:** That’s right. We tend these goats for you to uphold the Law and offer them as sacrifices. We will not be in the temple with you worshipping your legalistic god.

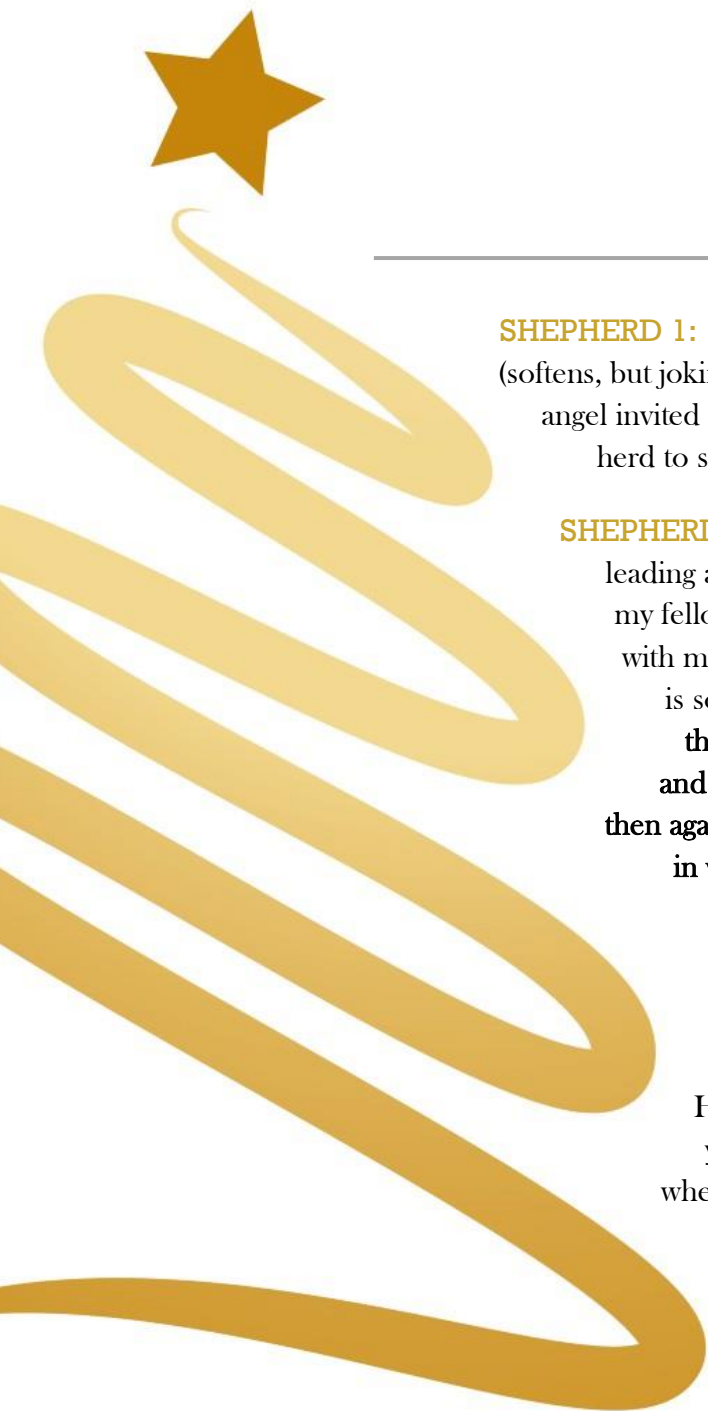
**SHEPHERD 1:** We will be here stuck in this rut, taking care of what needs to get done. We are alone and forgotten on this path.

**SHEPHERD 3:** (sincerely, optimistically) They say God is gracious and his love is eternal ...

**SHEPHERD 1:** Hmph ... maybe if He would come down here and see what it is like to live here — to toil and suffer — then we would find out what love really means.

**SHEPHERD 4:** (pitying) So cynical, so alone.

**SHEPHERD 5:** (challenging) Well, Joshua, what would it take to move you back on this path toward God, away from darkness?



---

**SHEPHERD 1:** (harshly) Not likely ...  
(softens, but joking) Well, maybe if an  
angel invited me to come bring my  
herd to shelter and meet God.

**SHEPHERD 6:** Setting direction,  
leading and walking alongside  
my fellow shepherds, dealing  
with my own mistakes — this  
is so hard. **To be honest,**  
**this is a big step of faith**  
**and trust in the Lord, but**  
**then again, faith is confidence**  
**in what we hope for and**  
**assurance about what**  
**we do not see.**

**SHEPHERD 5:**  
(to audience)  
How will you continue  
your walk of faith and  
where will you turn when  
you make mistakes,  
feel forgotten and  
feel alone?

---

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21** God made him who had no sin  
to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the  
righteousness of God.

**1 PETER 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the  
righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God. He was  
put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

**LUKE 2:8-13** And there were shepherds living out in the  
fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An  
angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the  
Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the  
angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good  
news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in  
the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the  
Messiah, the Lord.”

**SONG** While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks  
(See lyrics on page 9)



# STATION FOUR

## LIGHT, LOVE AND GRACE

---

**SET:** The Nativity (use the wooden cut outs set up and an angel to interpret).

**ANGEL 1:** Welcome! The Savior has come.

**ANGEL 2:** Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will to men.

**ANGEL 3:** When these seekers saw Jesus, their faith was restored and renewed. There was joy and celebration.

**ANGEL 1:** Celebrate with me now as we remember the birth of Jesus (presents flocking activity).

**ANGEL 2:** Joy comes on the path as well. That was fun.

**ANGEL 3:** I am wondering though, do you think this is the end or the beginning of the journey?

Will you join me in reading the scriptures? (direct audience or actors to take turns reading the verses):

---

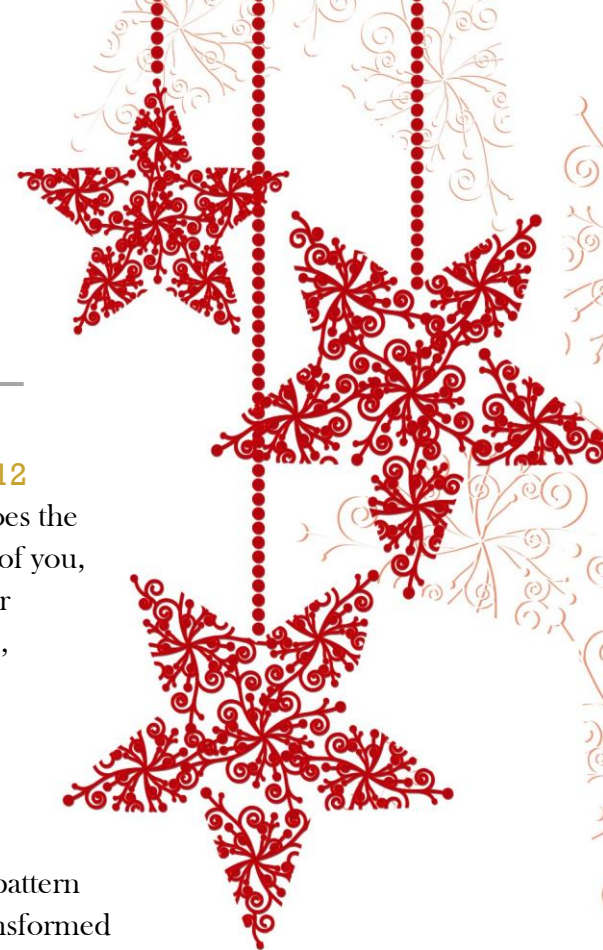
### DEUTERONOMY 10:12

And now Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

### ROMANS 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**EPHESIANS 2:8-9** For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast.



---

**ANGEL 2:** (to audience) He is calling to you and inviting you to walk alongside Him.

**ANGEL 1:** (to audience) How is He calling you to worship?

**ANGEL 3:** Do you see the God of grace? How is He calling to live?

**ANGEL 2:** How is He calling to love?

**ANGEL 3:** How is He calling to forgive?

**ANGEL 1:** Like the others we have met, your journey will not be easy. It will need to be a journey of faith. After all, **faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.**

Blessings to you all and may you continue to find light, love, grace and renewal.

---

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How is He calling you to worship?

Do you see the God of grace?

How is He calling you to live?

How is He calling you to love?

How is He calling you to forgive?

### SONGS

Angels We Have Heard on High

Go Tell it on the Mountain

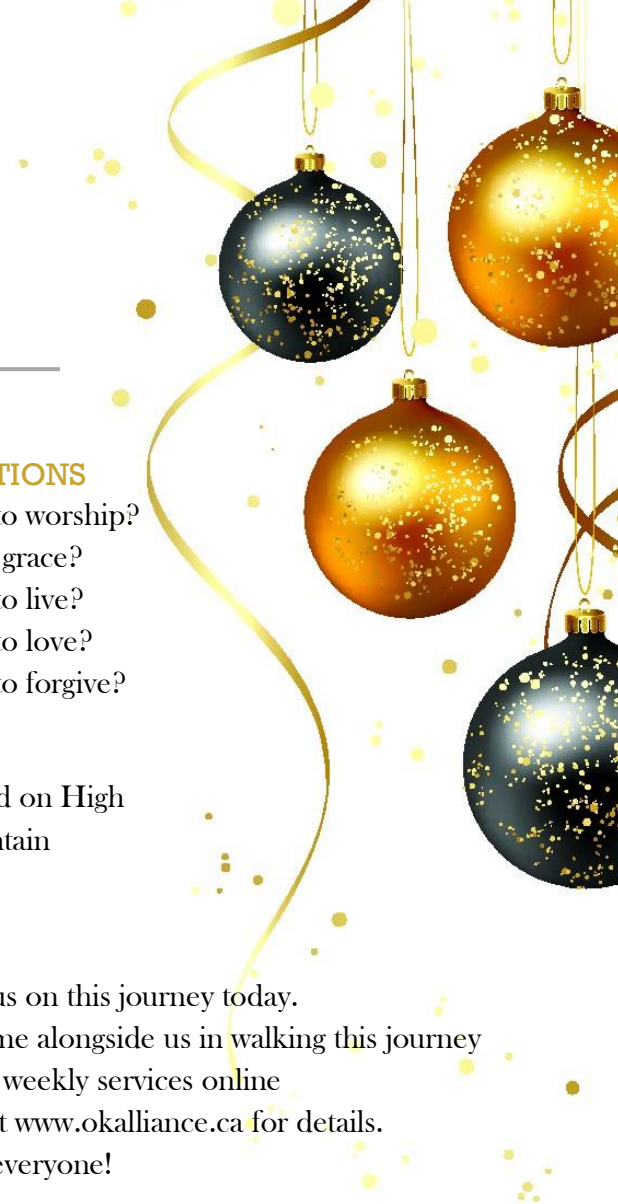
(See lyrics on page 10)

### CLOSING

Thank you for joining us on this journey today.

If you would like to come alongside us in walking this journey of faith, please join our weekly services online or in person. Check out [www.okalliance.ca](http://www.okalliance.ca) for details.

And Merry Christmas everyone!





# SONG

## LYRICS

---

### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

#### Verse One

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie  
Above the deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

#### Verse Two

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to men on earth

### WE THREE KINGS

#### Verse One

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar  
Field and fountain  
Moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

#### Chorus

O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us with thy perfect light

#### Verse Two

Glorious now, behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Heaven to earth responds

#### Chorus

O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us with thy perfect light

---

## MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

### Verse One

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water  
Mary, did you know, that your baby boy,  
would save our sons and daughters  
Did you know, that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new  
And this child that you delivered, will soon deliver you

### Verse Two

Mary, did you know, that your baby boy  
Would give sight to a blind man  
Mary, did you know, that your baby boy  
Would calm the storm with his hand  
Did you know, that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod  
And when you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God  
Oh Mary, did you know

---

## WHILE SHEPHERD WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around

Fear not, said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you all humankind

To you, in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Savior who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign

The heav'nly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
And in a manger laid

All glory be to God on high  
And to the earth be peace  
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to earth  
Begin and never cease

---

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

### Verse One

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

### Chorus

Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

### Verse Two

Shepherds, why this jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song

### Chorus

Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

### Verse Three

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King

### Chorus

Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

---

## GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

### Verse One

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

### Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born

### Verse Two

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

### Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born