

Journey to Bethlehem



Christmas is a time of journeys! Long ago, a young couple journeyed from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to welcome a child who had journeyed from the riches of heaven to the poverty of a manger, on a mission to redeem the world.

For the best experience, please roll down your windows and follow along with the guided audio available on our app. CDs available on request.

First Methodist Morehead City

Welcome to Nazareth

Scene One

The journey to Bethlehem begins in Nazareth, where Mary and Joseph are living during their engagement. This scene tells the story of a small village as you enter the world of first century Palestine and imagine what every day life might be like for Mary and Joseph. There are children playing, men and women gathering around the well, fire pits to cook food and keep warm, and animals being kept nearby.

O Come All Ye Faithful
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Joseph the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.
- Matthew 1:1-17

Gabriel Visits Mary

Scene Two

Mary, a young woman engaged to Joseph, has her life interrupted by an angelic messenger named Gabriel. This scene takes us to Mary's house, as Mary is going about her daily chores and hanging laundry up to dry.

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 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. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors." -Luke 1:26-38; 1:46-56

Joseph's Dream

Scene
Three

The Angel of God brings a message to Joseph in a dream concerning the birth of Christ. This scene takes us into his carpenter's shop where he might have fallen asleep on a cot. Joseph was upset and confused by the events that were happening. How could Mary possibly be with child! Being a just man, Joseph decided to break the engagement quietly to avoid exposing her to public disgrace. As he considered all these matters, he fell into a deep sleep. In the midst of his sleep, the angel of the Lord came to him in a dream.

"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus." -Matthew 1:18-25

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

A census is decreed and the young couple must travel to Bethlehem because Joseph belonged to the line of David. They must make the journey to Bethlehem together, even though Mary was great with child. This scene takes us inside the Roman Empire, where the soldiers are reading the decree from the emperor and it takes us on the road with Mary and Joseph as they begin the multiday walking journey.

"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 Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. 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." -Luke 2:1-5

Roman Census

Scene
Four

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus From our fears and sins release us,
Born to set Thy people free; let us find our rest in Thee.

No Room

Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem only to find that there is no room for them to stay in a guest room of a friend or relative. Because hospitality was important to the people in their culture, a solution is offered and Mary and Joseph are allowed to stay with the animals instead of out on the street. This scene depicts the traditional idea of an inn, an innkeeper, and the famous words, "No Room."

Scene Five

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

Luke 2:6-7

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy 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.

Good News

Scene Six

Angels We Have Heard On High Gloria in Excelsis Deo

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. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

This scene takes us to the shepherds who were abiding in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. When suddenly, breaking through the darkness, the glory of Lord shone around them and angels deliver the good news to the most humble recipients.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.- Luke 2:8-20

Follow the Star



Scene
Seven

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar

Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

This scene takes us on a journey with the magi (wise men)
as they follow the star to find the Messiah.

"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 when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route." -Matthew 2:1-12

The Palace

Scene Eight

This scene takes us inside Herod's palace where he sits on his throne, plotting how he will find and kill the baby who is born to be king. The Magi go home by a different way, so to avoid telling Herod where the baby could be found.

Emmanuel

Scene Nine



Emmanuel. God with us. This scene takes us to the stable as we see the holy family and the animals gathered around the manger.

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land
of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

Isaiah 9:2-7



Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight and Communion Services

3:00 The Rise

Children's Service in the Fellowship Hall

5:00 Sanctuary

Children's Service in the Sanctuary

7:00 Sanctuary

Traditional Worship Service

11:00 Sanctuary

Traditional Lessons and Carols

First Methodist Morehead City



*Thank you
to all of our
volunteers!*

Visit our website at www.fumcmhc.org!