

ARE WE THERE YET?  
Kim Marxhausen

### **The Journey of Faith**

Processional: The Advent of Our God LW12

Narrator 1: *Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord's approval. Judges 18:6*

Narrator 2: *Our story tonight is one of a journey; a journey of faith. Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem is the setting; however, we also remember the journey of the Adam and Eve, the shepherds, the wise men, and our own journeys. This wonderful story is made possible by Jesus' journey to earth to live among us, as God with us.*

Group 1: ***We're going on a journey***

Group 2: ***We're going far away***

Group 3: ***Jesus will be with us***

Group 4: ***He's in our hearts to stay***

All Groups: ***Are we there, yet?***

Children sing: "Go Tell" LOSP 104 verse 1 (substituting "sing for Baby Jesus")

### **The Journey Away from God**

Narrator 1: *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. . . The Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. Genesis 3:6 and 23*

Costumed Students: *A snake hands Adam and Eve an apple that they share. They leave the garden guarded by two angels.*

Narrator 2: A journey begins with a separation. You leave behind what is familiar for the adventure of travel. The journey of our faith begins with a separation, too. We are separated from God because of our sin. Adam and Eve were sent from the garden and so began our journey away from God.

Young students : **One little apple from the tree  
One little apple for you and me  
One little apple bit by Adam and Eve  
One little apple and we all had to leave.**

**One little baby a Savior he's to be  
One little baby came for you and me  
One little baby born to be a king  
One little baby loves to hear us sing**

Song: Little Children Can You Tell? TLCS 34 LOSP 86 or  
Savior of the Nations Come LW 13 LSB 332

Group 1: **We're going on a journey**

Group 2: **We're going far away**

Group 3: **Jesus will be with us**

Group 4: **He's in our hearts to stay**

All Groups: **Are we there, yet?**

Children sing: "Go Tell" verse 1 (substituting "search for Baby Jesus")

## The Law Guides Us on Our Journey

Narrator 1: 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 his 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. 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 room for them in the inn. Luke 2:1-7

Costumed Students: *Mary and Joseph traveling to the manger. Baby Jesus is placed in the manger.*

Narrator 2: It was law that sent Adam and Eve on their journey out of the garden, and a law that sent Mary and Joseph on theirs to Bethlehem. The timing was not right for a long trip as Mary was pregnant. She must have looked wearily to the road and wondered "Are we there, yet?" But God's timing was right. God used the law of the land to guide Mary and Joseph to the rightful place of Jesus' birth. God's law is for our guidance. God guides us on our journey of faith, also.

Young students : **Shhhh, shhhh, see the little baby  
Shhhh, shhhh, in his mother's arms  
Shhhh, shhhh, far away from home  
Shhhh, shhhh, his parents keep him warm**

**Shhhh, shhhh, sing for the baby  
Shhhh, shhhh, sing him now to sleep  
Shhhh, shhhh, sing for the baby  
Shhhh, shhhh, watch him as he sleeps**

Song: Oh, Come Little Children vs 1-2 TLCS 35 or  
O Little Town of Bethlehem LW60 LSB 361

Group 1: **We're going on a journey**

Group 2: **We're going far away**

Group 3: **Jesus will be with us**

Group 4: **He's in our hearts to stay**

All Groups: **Are we there, yet?**

Children sing: "Go Tell" verse one (substituting " see the Baby Jesus")

### **The Messiah Begins His Journey**

Narrator 1: 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 of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is Christ 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, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 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." Luke 2:8-15

Costumed Students: *Shepherds meeting in a field. An angel comes to tell the Good News. More angels join in singing. The shepherds begin the journey to see the baby.*

Narrator 2: The journey of the shepherds was a short but important one. They journeyed to see the promised Messiah. They journeyed

to see the One who came to fulfill the law on our behalf. Jesus' journey to earth marked a turning point in our journey of faith. Jesus' death and resurrection guarantees heaven waits for us. We no longer walk separated from our Heavenly Father. We now walk a path of faith back to His open arms.

Young students :

**5 angels sing in the sky  
5 angels sing  
1 flew down, spread love around  
4 angels sing in the sky**

**4 angels sing in the sky  
4 angels sing  
1 flew down, spread love around  
3 angels sing in the sky**

**3 angels sing in the sky  
3 angels sing  
1 flew down, spread love around  
2 angels sing in the sky**

**2 angels sing in the sky  
2 angels sing  
1 flew down spread love around  
1 angel sings in the sky**

**1 angel sings in the sky  
More come to sing  
Hundreds of angels sing in the sky  
Sing for the baby King**

Song: *Glory to God* LLV 12 or  
Now Sing We Now Rejoice LW 47 LSB 386

Group 1: **We're going on a journey**

Group 2: **We're going far away**

Group 3: **Jesus will be with us**

Group 4: **He's in our hearts to stay**

All Groups: **Are we there, yet?**

Children sing: "Go Tell" verse 1 (substituting "teach about Jesus")

### **The Journey Is Open to All Travelers**

Narrator 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." . . . After they had heard the king, they went on their way and the star they had seen in the east 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 and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:1-2 and 9-11

Costumed Students: *Wise men look to the star and follow to Bethlehem. When they arrive they move to Mary and Joseph and the baby. They set down their gifts and kneel before the child*

Narrator 2: Jesus was a Jew. His coming fulfilled a Jewish prophesy. The entrance of the Magi in this story adds new travelers to the journey. Jesus came for all people. We are all children of God with one Heavenly Father. It is our prayer that God's ways may be known on earth. Let us join together in reciting Psalm 67:

Narrator 1: **May God be gracious to us and bless us**

Congregation: And make His face shine upon us,  
Narrator 1: That Your ways may be known in earth  
Congregation: Your salvation among all nations.  
Narrator 1: May the peoples praise you, O God:  
Congregation: May all the peoples praise you.  
Narrator 1: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
Congregation: For You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.  
Narrator 1: May the peoples praise you, O God:  
Congregation: May all the peoples praise you.  
Narrator 1: Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.  
Congregation: God will bless us, and all the end of the earth will fear Him.  
Young students : **A star, a star led them on their way  
A star, a star to the baby in the hay  
A star, a star leads us to the king  
A star, a star Good News does us bring**  
  
**A heart, a heart beats in the baby's chest  
A heart, a heart a love that gives us rest  
A heart, a heart to guide us on our way  
A heart, a heart to tell us what to say**

Song: Ring the Bells LLV 14 or  
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear LW 62 LSB 366

Group 1: **We're going on a journey**

Group 2: **We're going far away**

Group 3: **Jesus will be with us**

Group 4: **He's in our hearts to stay**

All Groups: **Are we there, yet?**

Children sing: "Go Tell" verse 1

### **Our Journey Continues**

Narrator 1: By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. Hebrews 11:8

Narrator 2: Our journey will not end until we see our Savior's face when He welcomes us into heaven. It will truly be the journey of a lifetime. For now, we have work to do as we travel. So many of God's children have not heard the news of Jesus' birth; God sends us out into the world to tell others about His saving love. We do not know what will happen as we travel our journey of faith. We know that we will arrive, one day, in the arms of Jesus. He will guide us as we travel, protect us from harm and help us as we tell others the Good News.

Costumed Students: *One town person tells another, the two travel to a third, etc.*

Group 1: **We're going on a journey**

Group 2: **We're going far away**

Group 3: **Jesus will be with us**

Group 4: **He's in our hearts to stay**

All Groups: **Are we there, yet?**

Children sing: "Go Tell" verse 2

Older children: **We're going on a journey**

Younger children: **Are we there yet?**

Older children: **It's going to take us far**

Younger children: **Are we there yet?**

Older children: **We're going on a journey**

Younger children: **Are we there yet?**

Older children: **We're following a star**

Younger children: **Are we there yet?**

Older children: **We're going on a journey**

Younger children: **Are we there yet?**

Older children: **To see the baby king**

Younger children: **Are we there yet?**

Older children: **We're going on a journey**

Younger children: **Are we there yet?**

Older children: **Praises to the Lord we bring!**

Narrator 1: *Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord's approval. (Judges 18:6)*

Narrator 2: *May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)*

Recessional: *Angels from the Realms of Glory LW 50 LSB 367*

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Program Notes:

Song Selections:

Two selections are offered for each song so the program can be adapted. The songs could be sung by the congregation, older students or younger students. The songs can be found in the following volumes.

LW Lutheran Worship, Concordia Publishing House

LSB Lutheran Service Book, Concordia Publishing House

LOSP Little Ones Sing Praise, Concordia Publishing House

TLCS The Little Christian's Songbook, Concordia Publishing House

LLV Lift Little Voices, Concordia Publishing House

Costumed Students: The costumed students move to places and act out the narrative while it is being read. Props such as fruit, sheep and manger are helpful.

Angels	Mary	Joseph	Eve
Shepherds	Snake	Adam	

Parts:

Narrator 1 and 2: These parts are for adults but could be divided up among older children

Group 1,2,3,4: These parts are for large children's groups. This provides more involvement for the youngest children.



