

PARI SH PI LGRI MAGE

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THE CHRISTMAS STORY

A Guide and Journal for Advent through Epiphany

YEAR

Church Name
City, State (YEAR)

WELCOME & ORIENTATION

Welcome to a Christmas pilgrimage. Follow the footsteps of the Christmas story told in either Matthew’s or Luke’s Gospel (or both).

- Prayerfully walk the story, pausing for reflection/meditation at each location
- Journey independently or with others
- Romp, playfully asking questions and wonder with children or with friends

Notice how each Gospel tells the story differently and includes or excludes parts.

This is a traveling story.

Have you ever noticed how much of our sacred texts, Old Testament and New Testament, are comprised of traveling stories? Our lived stories are also traveling stories. They can disorient, reorient, and bring to us new understanding, new life. This is your time to walk the Christmas story in mind and body and spirit.

| Story in Matthew’s Gospel | Story in Luke’s Gospel |
|---|---|
| Station 1M (Bethlehem) Matthew 1:18-25 <i>Annunciation to Joseph</i> | Station 1L (Nazareth) Luke 1:26-38 <i>Annunciation to Mary</i> |
| | Station 2L (Hill Country of Judea) Luke 1:39-56 <i>Mary visits Elizabeth</i> |
| | Station 3L (Bethlehem, Manger) Luke 2:1-7 <i>Jesus is Born</i> |
| | Station 4L (Bethlehem, Nearby Fields) Luke 2:8-20 <i>Annunciation: Shepherds</i> |
| Station 2M (Jerusalem, Herod’s Palace & Bethlehem) Matthew 2:1-12 <i>Herod meets with the Wise Men</i> | Station 5L (Jerusalem, The Temple) Luke 2:21-38 <i>The Presentation</i> |
| Station 3M (Egypt) Matthew 2:13- 18 <i>Holy Family is in Exile</i> | |
| Station 4M (Nazareth) Matthew 2:19-23 <i>Holy Family Returns</i> | Station 6L (Nazareth) Luke 2:39-40 <i>Holy Family Returns</i> |

USING THIS GUIDE AND JOURNAL

GUIDEBOOK STRUCTURE

Section 1: Entering the Story

Section 2: Matthew's Christmas Story Stations 1M - 4M

Section 3: Luke's Christmas Story Stations 1L - 6L

Section 4: Exiting the Story

They represent the places specified throughout the Christmas story as told through the Gospel writers of Matthew and Luke. Experience the story through the telling of each Gospel writer separately and notice.

You are invited into each traveling story and to learn, reflect, play, and wonder.

GUIDEBOOK USE

Each location/Station contains descriptions of the images and objects. This booklet provides additional information, meditation, prayer, and online access.

Each location along each Gospel writer's story has its own segment in the guidebook.

Enter the story visually through artwork, through the story, music, poetry, reflections, or history. You choose.



This symbol means there is something available to watch on your computer at home or on your smartphone.



This symbol means there is something available to listen to on your computer at home or on your smartphone.

SECTION 1: ENTERING THE STORY

YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE DIVINE

Take 15-20 minutes and prepare yourself for entering this journey today. You have a map. But be prepared for the ways you do not know where you are going. Open to the possibility that the story you are following is a sacred biblical story and it is your story. Know that as your footsteps fall, the companions of Love and Hope accompany you, as they did Mary and the Holy Family.

WATCH AND PRAY



A story by Janet McKenzie about her painting, The Divine Journey (that is itself a journey)
[The Divine Journey: A Painter's Mission](#)



PSALM 16, *Conserva me, Domine*

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."

² All my delight is upon the godly that are
in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the
people.

³ But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my
lips.

⁵ O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I will bless the Lord who gives me
counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not
fall.

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my
spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon me to the
grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for
evermore.

ORIENTATION TO THE STORIES WITHIN THE STORY



Bruce Cockburn, Nothing but a Burning Light
(The Cry of a Tiny Babe)
<https://youtu.be/uq1PpZKMB18>



We may know this story as a single story. The song, The Cry of a Tiny Babe, by Canadian Singer/Songwriter Bruce Cockburn tells it that way, with his own interpretative overlay. In his own storytelling, he adds dimension to the story. May your experience of the stories add dimension for you as well.

This story is comprised of passages from two different Gospels: the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew. The writers of each Gospel were writing to a particular group of people, at a particular time, with particular perspectives about the Good News.

The diversity of art about the nativity story opens us to the great unity of God through diversity. Maybe some of the images will challenge your understanding the larger the story. There are many ways of retelling THE story of God and God's good work for and through humanity.

The places along this pilgrimage contain art, images, music, poetry, to invite you into the many, many layers of the story. If you want to learn more about how a diversity of images of the Christian stories can deepen your faith and practice, you can read the following article.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2020/06/25/how-an-iconic-painting-jesus-white-man-was-distributed-around-world/>.



ENTER WITH WONDER

FOR ADULTS

As you walk along the route mapped for you, as you look and read and listen, notice what draws your attention and take note at what God does and how God is with you as you move, play, pray, and reflect. Take note of how the Spirit moves in you as you walk, as you pause, as you focus. What feelings surface? What do you wonder about? What calls your attention and sparks your imagination? How do the varied footsteps of your life story find a fit (or don't!) within the footsteps of this story?

FOR CHILDREN

A passport is available for the children to take and stamp their books after they visit each location. As you walk along route invite the child into their own wondering. Ask them which pictures or images they like most and ask them why. Look for helpful hints and resources in the location sections, particularly in the Bethlehem locations (4 and 5), to open the story further for children.

SECTION 2: MATTHEW'S STORY

STATION 1M: BETHLEHEM

scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Annunciation to Joseph



Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in

her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

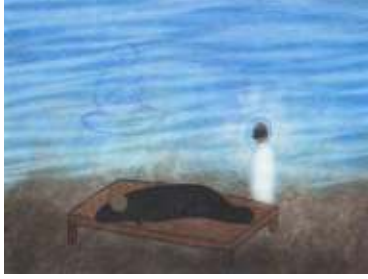
ARTWORK & DESCRIPTIONS

POSTER IMAGES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1</p>  <p>TITLE & ARTIST <i>Annunciation to Joseph</i>, Fr. Matthew Spencer, O.S.J.</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION</p>  <p>https://osjusa.org/st-joseph/art/annunciation-to-joseph/attachment/26870/</p> |
| <p>QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>2</p>  <p>TITLE & ARTIST <i>Annunciation to Joseph</i>, artist unknown</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Depicted from St Joseph's Church in Nazareth</p>  |
| <p>QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS</p> | |

3



TITLE & ARTIST

The Annunciation to Joseph, Cortney Haley

DESCRIPTION

This piece was created for GoTell Communications in 2015 for the purpose of engaging the story with women in jail, in their Circle of the World program.

http://circleoftheword.gotell.org/?page_id=562



QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS

In this image, there are no common reference points of Joseph as a carpenter except maybe the table on top of where he is sleeping is wood and he could have made. But is it a table or a bed frame? How might the role of water be significant in adding texture to your understanding about what Joseph is coming to understand through this annunciation that comes as a dream?

4



TITLE & ARTIST

The Dream of Joseph, Brother Claude Lane

DESCRIPTION

Located at Mt. Angel Abbey, Oregon. In this icon on one side, Joseph is pictured as a traveler, his feet still in movement, and carrying a knapsack. The Angel is pictured on the other side.



<https://osjusa.org/st-joseph/art/artists/brother-claude-lane-os-b/>

QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Joseph's Dream (Guatemalan)
John Giuliani

<https://www.hillstream.com/artist/john-giuliani/icons-paintings-gallery>



The Angel Visits Joseph
Mike Moyers

<https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/product-page/the-angel-visits-joseph>



Annunciation to Joseph
Fr. Sieger Köder

<https://www.paulineuk.org/browse/visual-resources/posters/item/poster-koder-annunciation-to-jo-73sk35/5031446016176>



ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF WONDER

A Blog Entry/Sermon from the Rev. Brent L. White,
<https://revbrentwhite.com/2011/12/09/sermon-for-12-04-11-journey-to-bethlehem-part-2-joseph-of-bethlehem/>



See St. Joseph's Church, Nazareth, Israel - The interior of Franciscan Roman Catholic Church,
<https://youtu.be/ByY61UBJMtI>



Cherry Tree Carol, Sting, *If on a Winter's Night*
<https://www.lyrics.com/lyric/17836275/Sting/Cherry+Tree+Carol>



STATION 2M: JERUSALEM, HEROD'S PALACE

scripture: Matthew 2:1-6

Herod Meets with the Wise Men



Rorate Cæli,
Gregorian Chant
Harpa Dei



Hear the Story



Select Location 6

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea;

for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

ARTWORK & DESCRIPTIONS

POSTER IMAGES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1</p>  <p>TITLE & ARTIST <i>Magi in the House of Herod</i> James Tissot</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper.</p> <p>https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/13393</p>  |
| <p>QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS</p> <p><i>Each day we are becoming a creature of splendid glory or one of unthinkable horror.</i> C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity</p> <p>This depiction of the wise men with Herod across the table from one another could illustrate the divide between glory and horror. Perhaps the choices one makes moves one from one to the other side. Herod's crown is depicted as a jester's crown, perhaps to communicate how his words did not match his heart. Maybe this piece of this story encourages us to align our words and actions with the good heart built into us by God.</p> | |

2



TITLE & ARTIST

The Adoration of the Magi,
anonymous (painter)

DESCRIPTION

At Dijon; Museum of Sacred Art

http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/Wave/image/joconde/1005/m013900_0005277_p.jpg



QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



The Adoration of the Magi
Edward Burne Jones, design, William
Morris, details

Copy woven 1894 for the Corporation of
Manchester (John Henry Dearle - Scanned
from Stephen Wildman, Edward)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoration_of_the_Magi_\(tapestry\)#/media/File:Adoration_of_the_Magi_Tapestry.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoration_of_the_Magi_(tapestry)#/media/File:Adoration_of_the_Magi_Tapestry.png)





The Magi Before Herod
Matteo di Giovanni

<https://useum.org/artwork/The-Magi-Before-Herod-Matteo-di-Giovanni>



Adoration of the Magi
page from Illuminated Gospel, 14th/15th Century

In the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/317618>



ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF WONDER

The Wise Men, Three Years Late for the Nativity, Ben Christian, January 4, 2019 <https://www.agameforgoodchristians.com/blog//late-magi>



The Journey of the Magi, A poem by TS Elliot, <https://poetryarchive.org/poem/journey-magi/>



No Return to the 'Old Dispensation', Roger Cohen, May 8, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/08/opinion/coronavirus-us.html>



Video Showing of Nativity and Adoration of the Magi, Giovanni Di Francesco Del Cervelliera's "Nativity and Adoration of the Magi" https://youtu.be/94-OwPRrV_A



SECTION 3: LUKE'S STORY

STATION 1L: NAZARETH

scripture: Luke 1:26-38
Annunciation to Mary



Gabriel's Message
Cambridge Singers



Hear the Story



Select Location 1

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

ARTWORK & DESCRIPTIONS

POSTER IMAGES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1</p>  <p>TITLE & ARTIST <i>Overshadowed</i>, Patty Wickham</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Medium unknown</p>  <p>http://www.loraschlesinger.com/wickman_overshadowed.html</p> |
| <p>QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS</p> <p>Sometimes it is hard to imagine anyone, let alone a 12- or 13-year old girl being asked to bear the weight of being the <i>Theotokos</i>, God-Bearer, or Mother of God. This image puts that reality in plain sight, in today's context. What would you say to this girl, your daughter, or niece, or granddaughter, or friend if she came to you and said what God had told her?</p> | |
| <p>2</p>  <p>TITLE & ARTIST <i>The Annunciation</i>, Patricia Brintle</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>2011, Acrylic on Canvas, Haiti</p>  <p>https://www.bridgemanimages.co.uk/en/11456/patricia-brintle</p> |
| <p>QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS</p> | |

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Homeless Mary
Nicole Dixon

<https://nicoledixon.carbonmade.com/projects/3188873#1>



The Annunciation (*L'annonciation*)

James Tissot

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/4422>



ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF WONDER

The Story of Christ through Mary's Eyes, 22 paintings by Joseph Aubert, depicting the life of Mary.

<https://messe.forumactif.org/t4650-vingt-deux-toiles-sur-la-vie-de-marie-par-l-artiste-joseph-aubert-1849-192>



Writing National Geographic Cover Story on the Virgin Mary, Tom Gallagher, December 9, 2015,

<https://www.nronline.org/blogs/author-discusses-writing-national-geographic-s-december-cover-story- virgin-mary>



STATION 2L: HILL COUNTRY OF JUDEA

scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Mary Visits her Cousin Elizabeth



In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth [*her cousin*]. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the

sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness
of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will
call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for
me,

and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts
of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from
their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

ARTWORK & DESCRIPTIONS

POSTER IMAGES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1</p>  <p>TITLE & ARTIST <i>Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth,</i> Artist unknown</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Copyright Source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/johndonaghy/22885862/ - John Donaghy</p> <p>Church of St. Elizabeth, El Salvador (Church of El Sitio)</p>  |
| <p>QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>2</p>  <p>TITLE & ARTIST N/A</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Statue: Church of the Visitation, Ein Karem, Israel</p> <p>https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sculpture_of_Mary_and_Elizabeth.JPG</p>  |
| <p>QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS</p> | |

3



TITLE & ARTIST

Mary as Prophet, Margaret Adams Parker

DESCRIPTION

Statue: Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA

<https://margaretadamparker.com/ShowWork.aspx?Group=Sculpture&SubGroup=Large&File=1>



QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS

SECTION 4: EXITING THE STORY

YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE DIVINE

Take 15-20 minutes and prepare yourself for exiting this divine journey today. Notice where in your body you feel at peace and where you feel unsettled. Just notice and give thanks to God for all that was, is, and what will be. Know that as your footsteps fell, the companions of Love and Hope were alongside you, as they were with Mary and the Holy Family.

WATCH AND PRAY



[The Beginning is the Ending and the Beginning Again](#)

An inter-generational story and reflection by the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assisting Bishop of Virginia (2019-2022), about time, the Church calendar, and our sacred stories of Jesus and our life with God. – from the sermon for the First Sunday in Advent 2020. –*Circle of the Church Year story created by the Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman*

PSALM 18, *Part 1, excerpted and adapted*

¹ I love you, O LORD my strength, *
O LORD my stronghold, my crag,
and my haven.

² My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, *
my shield, the horn of my salvation, and
my refuge; you are worthy of praise.

³ I will call upon the LORD, *
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁴ The breakers of death rolled over me, *
and the torrents of oblivion made me
afraid.

⁵ The cords of hell entangled me, *
and the snares of death were set for me.

⁶ I called upon the LORD in my distress *
and cried out to my God for help.

⁷ God heard my voice from the heavenly
dwelling; *
my cry of anguish came to God's ears.

¹⁷ God reached down from on high and
grasped me; *
God drew me out of great waters.

¹⁸ God delivered me from my strong
Enemies and from those who hated me; *
for they were too mighty for me.

¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my
disaster; *
but the LORD was my support.

DRAWING AND WRITING

SAMPLE

CHURCH
LOGO