

THE
Journey
OF
CHRISTMAS
SHARE THE STORY

NARRATION

Written by Deborah Craig-Claar

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®. All rights reserved worldwide. Used by permission.

THE JOURNEY OF CHRISTMAS

Narration

By Deborah Craig-Claar

SONG: “SONGS OF JOY” *with* “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

NARRATOR 1: O come and behold Him—born the King of angels!

NARRATOR 2: O come and adore Him—He is Christ the Lord!

NARRATOR 1: O come, all who are faithful, all who are seeking,
all who are *rejoicing*—come to Bethlehem!

NARRATOR 2: You are invited to take a journey with us tonight. We have extended a most special invitation, and we hope you will accept. We have saved a place just for you, and it is strictly come-as-you-are. You are invited to make a joyful noise!

NARRATOR 1: To repeat the sounding joy!

NARRATOR 2: To prepare Him room!

NARRATOR 1: To hear the herald angels sing!

NARRATOR 2: You are invited to join...The Journey of Christmas.

NARRATOR 1: It is a journey of dark roads into the unknown, and brilliant stars that lit the way. It is a journey over village streets, and sleeping fields, and deserts that disappeared on the eastern horizon.

NARRATOR 2: It is a journey from a manger...to a cross...to an empty tomb...to the very throne of heaven.

(“Glory, Glory” begins; the following narration is spoken over the introduction.)

NARRATOR 1: So come with us now and journey to Bethlehem. Come and sing with the angels!

NARRATOR 2: Glory!

NARRATOR 1: Glory!

NARRATORS: Glory to God in the highest!

SONG: “GLORY, GLORY”

NARRATOR 1: Journeys always have a beginning: a door opens, a road beckons, a voice is heard in the distance. And so it was when God first promised His children that light would come to our dark world.

NARRATOR 2: Hear, O people of God, the word of the Lord from the prophet Isaiah: You who walk in darkness, you will see a great light. You who live in the land of the shadow of death, a light will dawn. *(paraphrased from Isaiah 9:2)*

NARRATOR 1: No longer would God’s people have to wander, lost in the darkness, lost in their sin. Our Heavenly Father had forged a way back to Himself with the birth of the Messiah.

NARRATOR 2: For unto us a Child is born—a Son is given—and He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. *(paraphrased from Isaiah 9:6)*

NARRATOR 1: And God’s Son would be born for all: for the privileged and impoverished; for the princes and paupers; for the seeking, and broken, and hungry, and lost. The invitation is the same...

(“Come As You Are” begins; the following narration is spoken over the introduction.)

NARRATOR 1: *(cont.)* Come as you are. Simply...come.

SONG: “COME AS YOU ARE”

NARRATOR 1: The first steps of the Christmas journey were taken on a long midnight ride that stretched between Nazareth and Bethlehem. A census had dictated that each family return to their ancestral home—and so it was for a young expectant couple. Their names were Mary and Joseph.

NARRATOR 2: Through the dark night, a host of brilliant stars lit the way.

(“Every Star That Shines Tonight” begins; the following narration is spoken over the introduction.)

NARRATOR 2: *(cont.)* They would lead to a mother’s gentle lullaby, a father’s tender gaze, and a simple manger that cradled the Son of God.

SONG: “EVERY STAR THAT SHINES TONIGHT”

NARRATOR 1: Over Bethlehem’s skies, the heavenly summons was sounded!

(“Exceeding Great Joy” with “Joy to the World!” begins; the following narration is spoken over the introduction.)

NARRATOR 2: It reached shepherds in their fields; it reached sages who studied the stars.

NARRATOR 1: And it also reaches to us! Come, let us journey to the manger and lift our songs of praise with exceeding great joy!

SONG: “EXCEEDING GREAT JOY” with “JOY TO THE WORLD!”

NARRATOR 2: So many gifts were brought over so many miles to the manger. Some offered precious metals and spices; others only brought the praise of their lips and the worship of their hearts. But what they all offered...was love.

NARRATOR 1: How could it be otherwise? As we kneel at the manger and gaze upon the greatest act of love the world will ever know, we must respond in kind.

NARRATOR 2: This Child in the manger would grow up to tell us:
“As My Father has loved Me, so I have loved you.
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”
(paraphrased from John 15:9,12)

(“Don’t Save It All for Christmas Day” begins; the following narration is spoken over the introduction.)

NARRATOR 1: And this is the gift of love Christ gives each of us: it is a gift we receive to give away...not only at Christmas, but every day.

SONG: “DON’T SAVE IT ALL FOR CHRISTMAS DAY”

NARRATOR 2: So sing we now of Christmas!

**NARRATOR 2,
CHOIR, and**

CONGREGATION: Noel, sing we here!

NARRATOR 1: Troll the ancient yuletide carols!

NARRATOR 2: Remember Christ the Savior was born on Christmas Day!

NARRATORS: Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel!

NARRATOR 2: Sing we now of Christmas!

NARRATOR 2,

CHOIR, and

CONGREGATION: Noel, sing we here!

(“Sing We Now (Medley)” begins. Narrator 1 can invite the congregation to join in singing the carol medley over the introduction.)

SONG: “SING WE NOW (MEDLEY)”

(“Christ Is Born” begins immediately after the conclusion of “Sing We Now.” The narration begins around measure 3.)

NARRATOR 1: *(tenderly, conversationally)*
“How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

NARRATOR 2: “O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord, Immanuel!”*

SONG: “CHRIST IS BORN”

NARRATOR 1: Christmas and journeys are intrinsically linked. We travel to visit loved ones near and far away; we welcome neighbors down the street and across the country into our homes. Christmas is a time of comings and goings, and doors that are always open.

*Words taken from “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” written by Phillips Brooks.

NARRATOR 2: But these are journeys for a season. There is only one journey that is for eternity—the journey we make as Jesus beckons each of us to follow Him to a cross on a hill called Calvary.

NARRATOR 1: It is there that the hope of Christmas becomes the promise of salvation. It is there that the gift of His birth becomes our rebirth.

(“Remember the Reason” begins; the following narration is spoken over the introduction.)

NARRATOR 2: It is there that our journey truly begins.

SONG: “REMEMBER THE REASON”

NARRATOR 1: Pray with me. Heavenly Father, thank You for Christmas. Thank You for sending Your Son to journey to earth so that, through His death and resurrection, we might share Your eternal home. Thank You that the door is always open, and that we are forever welcome, just as we are. Help us remember that this gift of love is not only for Christmas, but is now ours to give away every day of the year.

NARRATOR 2: And thank You, Father, that we do not journey alone—that Jesus walked this road before us and now walks beside us. Therefore, we rejoice with exceeding joy, and say with the angels:

(“This Baby Boy” begins; the following responsive reading/prayer is said over the light percussive introduction.)

NARRATOR 2: Glory! Glory!

**NARRATOR 2,
CHOIR, and**

CONGREGATION: Glory to God in the highest!

NARRATOR 1: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people!

CHOIR and

CONGREGATION: Glory to God in the highest!

NARRATOR 2: For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

CHOIR and

CONGREGATION: Glory to God in the highest!

NARRATOR 1: And this will be a sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

NARRATOR 2: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

NARRATORS,

CHOIR, and

CONGREGATION: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

SONG: "THIS BABY BOY"

PASTOR'S MESSAGE*

SONG: "WHEN HE COMES AGAIN"

*The following Scripture-based narration can be used in addition to, or in place of, a pastoral message:

NARRATOR 1: Glory to God in the highest. Goodwill to men. And on earth...peace.

NARRATOR 2: "Peace I leave with you," Jesus said. "Peace I give you. Not as the world gives it to you, do I give you. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.

NARRATOR 1: Believe in God, believe also in me. In My Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself.

NARRATOR 2: And there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Behold, I make all things new.

NARRATOR 1: Come...Lord Jesus." Amen.
(paraphrased from John 14:1-3,27; 16:33 and Revelation 21:4-5; 22:20)

SONG: "WHEN HE COMES AGAIN"