



# JOY IN THE JOURNEY

ADVENT 2023

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

## Common traits in biblical Christmas travel stories:

- Submission to a calling or authority
- Facing loss
- A pregnant sense of peace and power
- Relational joy waiting ahead
- Eternal exaltation





courtesy soy



courtesy CSO



courtesy housetipster



courtesy storyblocks

## How to journey to Bethlehem:

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**38 And Mary said,  
“Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord;  
may it be done to me  
according to your word.”**

**Luke 1 NASB**

*Pieta*  
**Michelangelo**  
**1498**





**38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”**

**Luke 1 NASB**

**24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him.**

**Matthew 1 CSB**

**Likely routes for a  
Nazareth-Bethlehem  
journey late 1<sup>st</sup> c.  
B.C.**



**Likely routes for a Frisco-Anchorage  
journey early 21<sup>st</sup> c. A.D.**

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***Elizabeth welcomes Mary***  
**Jen Norton**  
**2021**





***The Saviour in  
the Temple***  
**William Hunt**  
**1860**

**Some of you are like this, and it's beautiful. You go through frightening, tumultuous times, you face serious loss, and you grieve. Yet, there is a power and peace from God that pervades your lives, and your relationships actually improve through the crucible.**

**– Wayne to the FBC congregation and our study partners around the world**



**46 And Mary said:  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 because he has looked with favor  
on the humble condition of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations  
will call me blessed,  
49 because the Mighty One  
has done great things for me,  
and his name is holy.**

**Luke 1 CSB**

**Lord, I know He's not my own  
Not of my flesh, not of my bone  
Still Father let this baby be  
The son of my love  
Father show me where I fit  
Into this plan of yours  
How can a man be father  
To the Son of God  
Lord, for all my life  
I've been a simple carpenter  
How can I raise a king?  
How can I raise a king?**



**Michael Card, "Joseph's Song"**



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*New Kids in the  
Neighborhood*  
Norman Rockwell  
1967





***The Christmas Party***  
**Norman Rockwell**  
**1964**

courtesy The Saturday Evening Post

*Lift Up Thine Eyes*  
Norman Rockwell  
1957

courtesy BYU museum



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**Luke 2:8-20**



***Adoration of the Shepherds***  
**Gerhart von Honthorst**  
**1622**



courtesy freepik

*Adoration of the Magi*  
Rembrandt van Rijn  
1632-3



courtesy Villa Medici

## Wise guides show us the best way to travel through life:

- Submission to a calling or authority
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**Please insert video here:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0M0FfQzSngM&t=5s>**

**Start at :45**

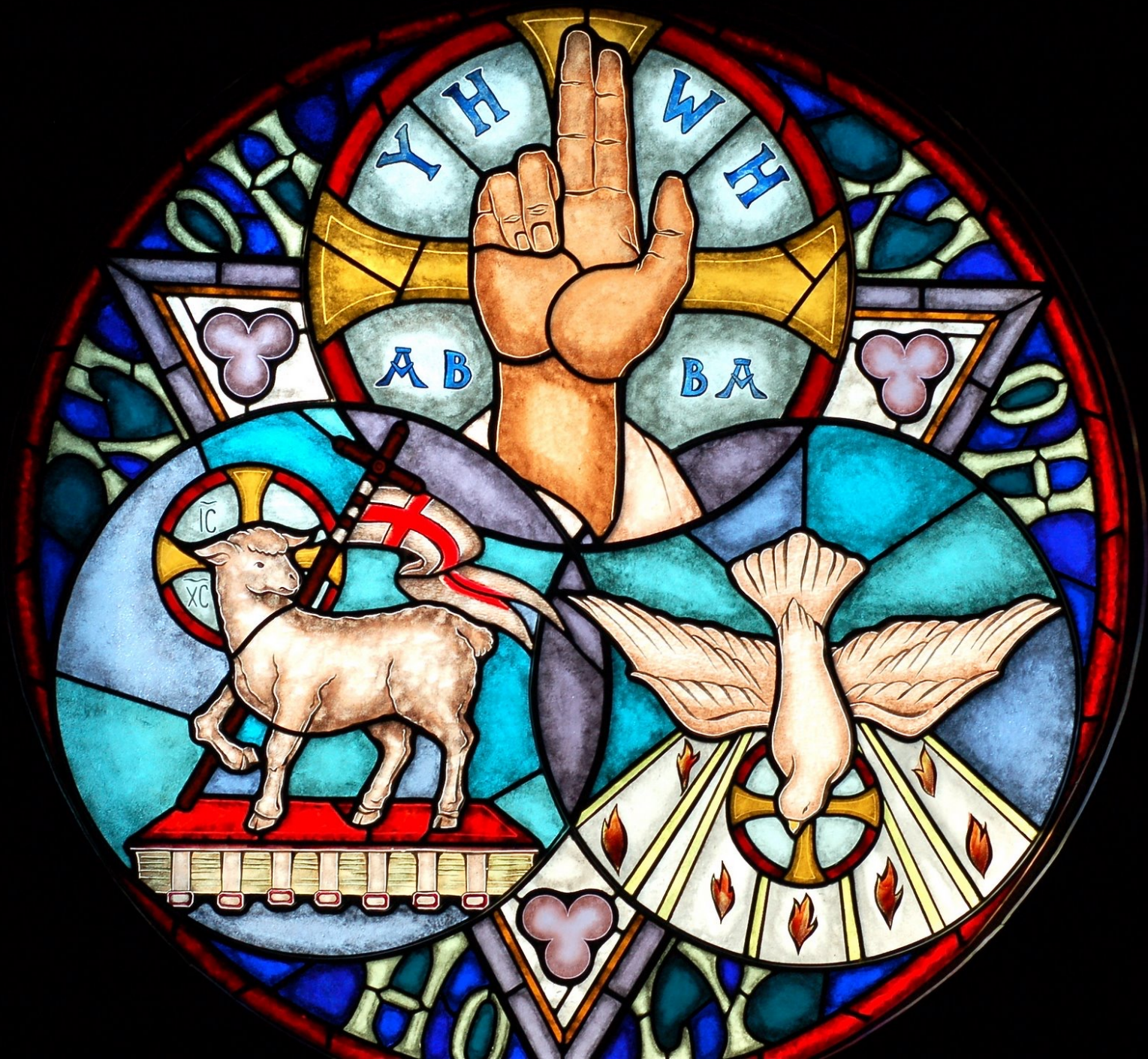
**End at 1:56 with John Candy's terrified close-up**



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*Adoration of the  
Shepherds*  
Matthias Storm  
ca. 1800

**1<sup>5</sup> This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:**

**“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” ...**

**1<sup>6</sup> [demonstrating] his extraordinary patience as an example  
to those who would believe in him for eternal life.**

**1<sup>7</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**1 Timothy 1 CSB**

**These steps are truly the hardest. I have been on this Christian journey for about 40 years, and I was smacked in the gut by the fact that even when I pray according to God's biblically revealed will if the outcomes don't match my expectations, then I undo the whole voyage. I run back in reverse – losing eternal rewards by disobeying, ignoring my relationship with God, forfeiting all peace and power, refusing to sacrifice or submit. Thankfully, when I come to my senses, God kindly calls me to once again start back on the journey to Bethlehem.**



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courtesy pinterest



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courtesy hdqwalls





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