

**BROADWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH • COLUMBIA, MISSOURI**  
**THE WORSHIP OF GOD • DECEMBER 13, 2020**  
**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
***“NOT SO FAR”***

**The Scripture**  
**Based on Luke 1 and 2, Matthew 1 and 2**

**The Message**  
***Not So Far: Joy***  
**The Children of Broadway Christian Church**



During this time of pandemic requiring virtual experiences, the children of Broadway, with the help of their families created a variety of scenes to depict the story of Joy, of the coming of Jesus to our world. These scenes were shared virtually while several of the children shared this story.

*Narrated by*  
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A long time ago, in the town of Nazareth, lived a young woman named Mary. Mary was kind to others and loved God very much. She was engaged to be married to Joseph, who was a carpenter.

One day, an angel appeared to Mary and said, “Rejoice favored one! The Lord is with you!” Mary was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel continued, “Don’t be afraid Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and he will be called the Son of the Most High.”

Then Mary asked, “How can this be?”

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most high will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's son."

Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said."

Joseph was surprised when Mary told him about the baby. He did not know about God's plan. Joseph was not sure whether he was good enough to be a father to such a special child.

That night, an angel visited Joseph 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 people from their sins."

When Joseph woke up, he did just as the angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife.

That year, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Joseph and Mary needed to go to Bethlehem in Judea to be counted. It was a very long journey to Bethlehem. Joseph walked the whole way. But it was almost time for Mary to have her baby, so she rode a donkey all the way to Bethlehem.

It was late at night when Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem. They were tired and hungry, but there wasn't an available room to be found. One innkeeper wanted to help the young couple. He said they could stay in his stable. It was full of animals, but it was warm. Mary and Joseph were relieved to have a place to rest.

That night in the stable, Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mary didn't have clothes or a cradle for her baby. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him down using the manger as a crib.

The animals didn't mind sharing their stable or their manger. They knew that baby Jesus was special.

When Jesus was born, a big, bright star rose in the sky. The star was right over the stable to tell the whole world that this amazing baby had been born that night.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, and the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Do not be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you - wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your Savior is born today in Bethlehem. He is Christ the

Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great assembly of angels joined, and they said “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace and good will towards men.

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed. The shepherds returned home, glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Farther away in the East, three wise men called magi studied the stars. They saw the star of Bethlehem and knew it meant that a great king had been born. So, the magi set off on a journey, they wanted to find the King and His star. When they found Jesus with his mother Mary, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to show their respect and honor. They knew that Jesus would grow up to be a great man and lead God’s people.

The Beginning!

**Song of Response**  
***“Joy to the World in Christ, Emmanuel”***  
**Words and Music: Ed Varnum**

1. The sun is setting and weary from the journey,  
they find no room at the inn.  
“But there’s room in the stable,” the inn keeper says.  
And Joseph humbly bows, thanking him.

And shepherds in fields gaze in awe at the hearing  
of the thunder of wings high over the clearing,  
songs of glory to God by angels that tell  
Joy to the world in Christ, Emmanuel.

2. Joseph lifts up the baby then gently kneels down,  
placing their son into Mary’s embrace.  
In the quiet of evening, they see only love  
in the wonder and peace on each face.

Overhead, hope shines in a star  
as magi make their quest from afar.  
And Mary’s amazed by what shepherds tell:

Joy to the world in Christ, Emmanuel.

Promise of hope, peace joy and love  
here this day, sent from heaven above.  
Receiving that promise, it is now ours to tell:  
Joy to the world in Christ, Emmanuel.

\* JOY GRAPHIC USED WITH PERMISSION OF JENNY MCGEE.