

## **Year B, Week 5**

**Text:** Luke 2:1-20

**Idea:** Jesus is Born

**Hymn suggestion:** Joy to the World

**Items Needed:** a Joseph, an angel, a Mary, baby in a manger, shepherds, sheep and other animals if you like.

We've been learning that Advent is a time to get ready for Jesus. Now we can finally celebrate His birth!

It's a familiar story, but let's hear it again.

The ruler of the entire Roman empire decided that he wanted to count all his subjects. So everyone in Israel traveled to their family's home town. Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem, with his wife Mary, who was expecting a baby.

While they were in Bethlehem, she realized that she was about to have her baby. They looked for a good place to stay, but they could not find any place in the inn that would be good to have a baby. So they found a barn – a stable, and there she had a little boy.

She wrapped him up in cloths and she used a feedbox – a manger – as a crib.

Nearby in the fields, were some shepherds watching their sheep. An angel appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them.

The shepherds were terrified!

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I've got good news! I'm bringing you great joy! Today in Bethlehem, a savior has been born. It's the Christ, the Lord! You'll know it's the savior when you find a baby whose is wrapped up in clothes and lying in a manger.

Then in the sky there was not one but a crowd of angels. They were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace and goodwill to all people."

When the angels left, the shepherds said, "Let's go! I want to see this thing that the Lord has told us!"

So they hurried off and they did find Mary, Joseph, and the baby in the manger.

Then they spread the word to other people, and everyone who heard the story was amazed. But Mary stayed silent. She kept all these things in her heart and wondered about them.

Then the shepherds returned to their fields, praising God for everything they saw, which was just as the angels told them.

**Questions without Response:**

- I wonder ... if this story seems special and exciting, or old and boring?
- I wonder ... why such a special baby was born in a barn?
- I wonder ... why such a special baby was greeted by dirty old shepherds?
- I wonder ... how the shepherds were changed by what they saw?
- I wonder ... how we might be changed by this story?