

## A presentation to use in an Advent service



*During this a large square of purple material is placed centrally*

Purple is the colour of Kings and Queens

Purple is also a serious colour.

Something is about to happen

A King is coming, but not the kind of king people expect.

This king has no army, no great palace, no riches.

This king will be a baby born in a barn.

This king has come...

is still coming...

and will come again.

This is full of mystery

Sometimes you can be so busy that you miss the mystery

Sometimes it is hard to enter into it

The coming weeks of Advent can help

There is time to stop

There is time to get ready

There is time to travel together again the roads to Bethlehem ....

***A model of Bethlehem is paced in the centre of the purple material***

*On one side of the central material place a roll of purple felt /material and roll out the road  
I also use some of the people of God figures.  
Place a lighted candle or invite people to place a light on the road*

The prophets, are those who come close to God  
and who know what God wants us to do.  
They will show the way.  
See their lights, which give hope in times of trial  
**ALL: These lights are theirs and ours**



We have a moment of silence to enjoy the lights.  
.... A time to come close to God

*On another side of the central material roll out another purple road  
Place the figures of Mary Joseph and the Donkey and lights as before*

A young couple travel the road.  
The breath of the animal warms the cold night air.  
They are tired and exhausted from their travel  
The woman is expecting a baby,  
and they wonder whether there will be room in the town.

See they bring the lights of their travel and their hopes for hospitality.

**ALL: These lights are theirs and ours.**

We have a moment of silence to enjoy the lights.

*Silence*

**WE PRAY**

for the people of the world today seeking refuge and hospitality  
for all refugees made homeless as a result of war...  
for those seeking shelter in our town during winter...  
for all who travel at this time ...

**ALL: Help us to travel the Bethlehem road today**

*On the third side of the central material rollout another road and place figures of the shepherd and sheep and lights as before*



Here is a group working people travelling the same roads to Bethlehem.  
They are afraid. Their hearts are beating loudly  
As well as hearing their own hearts,  
they have heard mysterious singing in the winter sky.  
There was a song about a child who will bring peace,  
A song of a child who will change everything.  
What will they find in Bethlehem?  
Their hearts are filled with wonder and expectation.

See they bring the lights of their work and hopes for a changed world.

**ALL: These lights are theirs and ours.**

We have a moment of silence to enjoy these lights.

*Silence*

*WE PRAY*

for our daily work

for those who sustain our daily lives in town and country

for those without work and those seeking work

**ALL: Help us to travel the Bethlehem road today**

*As before add another purple road to the final side of the material add figures of the Magi and lights*



The Wise Ones journey to Bethlehem.

They are so wise and clever that most people think they are magic.

They are called the Magi, it's where we get the word magic from.  
They know about the mysteries of the universe.  
They follow a wild star.  
It arouses their curiosity for knowledge and wisdom.  
Their questioning and searching will lead them to a child...  
...a child who contains the deep secrets of the universe.

See they bring their lights of wisdom and questioning.

**ALL: These lights are theirs and ours.**

We have a moment to enjoy these lights.

*Silence*

*WE PRAY*

for all who seek for knowledge and truth  
for those who inspire and encourage  
for those whose wisdom enriches our common life

**ALL: Help us to travel the Bethlehem road today**

### **INVITATION TO JOURNEY**

All these people, and many others, travel on the roads to Bethlehem  
As we get ready for the great mystery which is Christmas...  
We travel with them bringing all that is hard and painful,  
all that true and everlasting,  
And pray that we might journey towards the child,  
The companion of our journey...  
the destination of our journey.

### **AN INVITATION TO OFFER EVERGREEN TO CREATE AN ADVENTWREATH**

*The greenery forms a circle on the central material surrounding Bethlehem*



A time to enjoy the wreath,

the lights, and those travelling on the roads to Bethlehem.

**ALL:** *(said quietly)*

**Help us to come close to the mystery this Advent.**