



Travelers

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Tonight we join the weary travelers on the road to Bethlehem, busy with the demands and expectations of their kingdom- so focused on the task at hand that most passed right by the God in their midst.

And we slow down for a brief moment. We listen and we watch for a sign of another kingdom and for a glimpse of another kind of king.

Tonight we join the manager of the inn. We recognize that our lives are full, and we have convinced ourselves we are managing just fine on our own. And so, when we hear the request for our Lord to move in, we aren't quite sure where He will fit. We worry He might mess up the system. He might disturb the other residents in our midst.

And yet, we take a risk that inn keeper could not take. We name the clutter, identify the chaos, and step away from the empty pursuits. We listen to the longing in our heart to make room for Him, no matter the cost. And we begin to make room.

Tonight we join Mary the mother and Joseph the father. We are overwhelmed at the reality of a God who would place himself in our care. We gaze at the mystery of the Creator of All, entering into the life of creation. We wonder how he could love us enough to choose for us to know him as a friend. Now that we have seen him, we fear ever being asked to walk a day without him. Like these two, we ponder in our hearts what will become of this journey we are now on together.

Yes, with our eyes set on that infant in the manger- we are deeply moved. We know that our lives can never be the same.

Tonight we join those shepherds in the field. They are those who are awake while others sleep- some because they have work to do, some because their minds won't let them rest, some because there is no peace in the dark. We join these who never stood on a pedestal, never achieved much at all as far as anyone could tell. We join the unnamed ones who on a lonely, quiet kind of night were the first to hear of good news that would change the world.

And from our own places of anxiety, loneliness, turmoil, and feelings of insignificance, we look up and see that the good news of a Savior meets us in these dark places first and foremost. That's why it is called Good News!

And tonight, we join the angels who at the wonder of it all, praise God and sing together-

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth peace to all men and women who please him.**

Tonight, we join all of creation in heaven and on earth,

And we adore our One True King.