

Advent of Faith

2nd Sunday of Advent: December 9

Read	Micah 5:2 Matthew 2:1-2; 9-11 Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 3:1-6
Review/Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why did Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?• Why was Bethlehem an unusual city for the “Son of God” to be born?• Jesus was born into humble conditions. What were these humble conditions? Why do you think God chose these circumstances? What does this reveal about the nature of God? Consider Philippians 2:1-11• Why do you think God announced the coming of Jesus to shepherds?
Apply (Choose 1-2 questions to discuss; or do them all if time permits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does knowing that Micah prophesied the birthplace of Jesus thousands of years in advance affect you?• Bethlehem was “little” and unimpressive. Yet, God chose this to be the birthplace of the Son of God. Does your life ever feel too “little” or unworthy to be used by God? Consider 2 Corinthians 4:7• Reread Luke 2:10-14. At first the shepherds were afraid, but then they heard the Good News and their fear turned to joy. How does the good news of Christ bring you joy? How do you show it?• The shepherds “made haste” to see Christ and then told everyone what they saw. Who in your life can you share the good news of Christ with?
Pray	Jesus, you amaze me. You are a glorious king and yet you were born in a manger. Thank you for showing me what true humility looks like. I know that even when I feel unworthy; you can still use me. Give me the boldness to share my faith with others and I pray you are preparing their hearts in advance to hear the Good News. Thank you for being Immanuel; God with us. Thank you for being with me throughout this day. Amen.