

2020 Advent and Christmas

Woodfords Congregational Church

Holy Family Adventures - Guidance

This Advent, the pandemic is preventing many of us from traveling. Although most of us aren't visiting any exotic places, Mary and Joseph (and baby Jesus in Mary's belly!) don't need to be stuck at home, too.

According to the Bible, Mary and Joseph did quite a bit of traveling around the time of Jesus' birth. The Gospel of Luke says that Joseph and a very pregnant Mary first traveled from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea. The two cities are about 70 miles apart as the crow flies, but depending upon the route Mary and Joseph took, they may have walked up to 90 miles before reaching the manger in Bethlehem.

Tradition indicates that the travels continued after Jesus' birth. The Gospel of Matthew claims that Mary, Joseph, and their son traveled all the way to Egypt in order to save Jesus' life. Like many refugees and immigrants today, Mary and Joseph fled persecution and violence in order to make a better life for their child.

This holiday season, we invite you to help the Flat Holy Family have some adventures. Perhaps you'll take Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and their faithful donkey with you during your seasonal travels, no matter how far or close to home you roam. Perhaps you'll send them to visit distant relatives or friends. (Just because passenger air traffic is down doesn't mean that the Holy Family can't get on a mail plane!) Maybe Mary and Joseph will have an opportunity to enjoy the beach or mountains, to traverse Maine, to accompany you on some errands, or to take a cross-country jaunt all the way across the nation!

When Flat Mary and Joseph have reached a destination you'd like to share, we invite you to:

1. Snap a picture of them in the middle of their adventure.
2. Share the picture with the [Woodfords Community Facebook Group](#) or on [Woodfords' Instagram](#).

Who knows where they'll go?!

Thanks to Emily Segal for providing this wonderful line drawing of the Holy Family. Feel free to put your own spin on things by coloring the picture, making paper-doll clothes for Mary and Joseph, or dressing them in whatever clothing might be appropriate for their escapades.

Most of all, HAVE FUN!