



### **Litany for Bethlehem Sunday (Advent 2011)**

With Christians around the world, we are traveling to the little town of Bethlehem to see the child whose face reflects the face of God.

**By the light of a star, we travel to see what God has done and is doing for us, among us, within us.**

We remember the story of a star-lit stable and an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. In our memory we smell the hay and hear the bleating of sheep as shepherds approach and wise men come bearing gifts.

**With hope born of memory and faith, we also come to the stable to give thanks to God for the birth of this child whose life bears witness to God's presence among us.**

And in the little town of Bethlehem this day the miracle continues in the faith and lives of God's people who live behind a wall that separates neighbor from neighbor and farmers from their fields. In the witness of our sisters and brothers of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, the light of that ancient night still shines transforming humble stables and ordinary lives into places where God can be seen and experienced.

**Let us continue to believe in the miracle of Christmas and the transforming power of God's love made known to us in a tiny baby born in a manger. Let us join with Christians in Bethlehem, asking God to be born in and through us this year that our lives might also be bright stars of hope in our world.**

*Sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*