

Advent Letter

For the guardians:

Hello, welcome to the "Advent Letter" initiative by the parish for Church Pioneering "Growing Up with God!" in Oldenburg - every Advent week, there will be a letter with a story and a small crafts activity. At the end, a nativity scene will be created as a window display (not to give too much away ;-). Under the QR code, you will find all the letters (in case you missed one), along with versions in German. Feel free to share the materials. I wish you a wonderful Advent season, Pastor Meike Melchinger

Story:

"Hee haw!" That means "Hey!" for those who don't understand donkey.

I've been on the road for a while, and I must say, carrying Mary on my back is no easy task. And Joseph here won't even let me find out how the grass tastes along the way.

As soon as I stop, he urges me on.

He seems to be in a hurry. "Come on, you slowpoke donkey!"

If I didn't know that Mary would need another bathroom break soon, I'd show Joseph how fast I can run. Lazy donkey himself! He could have left earlier.

And why are we even on the road?

"Oh, Joseph, come on. We'll get there," says Mary, patting my neck.

"Bethlehem is not far away."

I have to shake my head, why go to Bethlehem? It's just a small place on the way to Egypt.

Joseph snorts beside me, "Why did Emperor Augustus have to order a census now?"

And why does everyone have to go back to their birthplace for it? I haven't been to Bethlehem in ages!"

Ah, that's why we're on the road, I think.

While Joseph is distracted by his annoyance I quickly pluck a few blades of grass.

"I have to pee again," says Mary - there you go, I knew it! Why can't humans pee while walking anyway? Joseph helps her down from my back, very gently, and I stand still.

Because we both know that Mary has a baby in her belly.

Honestly, as big as her belly is already, it could come anytime.

Hopefully, we'll have arrived by then.

While Mary takes a bathroom break, I take the opportunity to try the grass on the other side of the road. Yummy!

She comes back and strokes me behind the ears before Joseph helps her back onto my back. Very carefully, of course. Well, I won't be difficult.

I'll carry them nicely to Bethlehem, so they can have their baby there.

Hopefully, there'll be a place for me in the stable and some hay for me.

A little "Hee haw!" for the people in Bethlehem to know we're coming!



MIT GOTT GROß
WERDEN!



Craft idea:

The figures printed here can be colored (pencils or felt-tip pens), then cut out. Place them on newspaper or paper towels and gently brush with cooking oil. Let them dry. Stick them to the window with adhesive tape - add more figures gradually. It might also make sense to rearrange the figures according to the story - so it's best to attach them securely so they can be moved.

