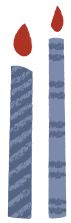


# Advent Letter



For the guardians:

Welcome to the 2nd Advent letter from the the parish for Church Pioneering "Growing Up with God!" in Oldenburg. If you missed the first one: Under the QR code, you will find all the letters, along with versions in German. Feel free to share the materials. I wish you a wonderful Advent season, Pastor Meike Melchinger

## Story:

"Oh, who's coming now? Bethlehem is already packed! All sorts of people have come, something about a census. Well, they won't find a place here!"

The mouse strokes its whiskers and looks down the street.

Here comes a man with a donkey carrying a woman.

"Well, they won't find a place here."

This mouse knows the situation around here.

Just now, it was chased out of a house with a broom!

If there's no room left for people, there's definitely no space for mice, the woman shouted as she swept the mouse out.

And it hadn't even nibbled on a piece of cheese from the pantry!

What a meanie, thinks the mouse!

With its button eyes, it curiously watches as the two knock on the first door.

"We're full!" "No more room!" "Try somewhere else!"

With each rejection, the man seems to become smaller, and his wife more desperate.

She says softly, "Joseph, I hope we find something soon. It won't be long now."

"What won't be long?" the mouse wants to know and follows the two out of curiosity.

Joseph says to his wife, "Mary, God will take care of us; we still have a few doors to try."

So they try again, "Can we stay here?" they ask at the door.

"No, we have no space here, but you can go in there with the animals."

Quietly, the mouse follows along just as the door is about to close.

Mary is quite exhausted, is she in pain?

Joseph makes her a bed out of straw.

Almost like a nest, the mouse thinks.

It looks quite cozy, even if it's not a real bed.

Then the mouse realizes: The woman is having a baby here right now.

And when it's arrived, the people lay it in the crib.

There, it's protected, it can't roll out, and the animals in the stable won't step on it.

But the mouse climbs up and looks closely: There it is, the baby!

A bit wrinkled and red.

But that's how human babies are supposed to look – so the mouse has heard.

There, look, it's smiled at the mouse!

The mouse gets a warm feeling in its belly, almost as if it had nibbled on a piece of its favorite cheese.

Happily, the mouse curls up in the straw.



MIT GOTT GROB  
WERDEN!



**Craft idea:**

Color the figures printed here (pencils or felt-tip pens), then cut them 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, next to the others.

