



	The shepherds' visit	
Presence of God	Considering how God looks at me.	
History Luke 2, 6 – 20	<p>6 Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, 7 and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space.</p> <p>8 In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night.</p> <p>9 An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified,</p> <p>10 but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.</p> <p>11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.</p> <p>12 And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'</p> <p>13 And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words: 14 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favors.</p> <p>15 Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.'</p> <p>16 So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.</p> <p>17 When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, 18 and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds said to them.</p> <p>19 As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.</p> <p>20 And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.</p>	
Petition	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly!.</i>	

<p>Contemplation</p>	<p>Review <i>Do you remember what we have been contemplating so far? God had an idea and said "Let's save the man", and sent an angel to ask Mary if she wanted to be God's mom. And what did Mary answer? I am the Servant of the Lord.</i> <i>And do you remember the "gossip" the angel told Mary? Elizabeth was pregnant! So Mary went to visit and help her. When Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house, both greeted each other and so did Jesus and John in their wombs. The Virgin stayed at Elizabeth's house until John was born and then she returned to her house in Nazareth. Then, do you remember what happened? What did the Emperor want to do? A census. So Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. Were they welcome there? And what happened while they were staying in Bethlehem? Jesus, the Savior was born.</i> <i>Let's close our eyes and imagine the place where Jesus was born, let's imagine Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Ask Mary once again for permission to hold the baby in your arms for a little while.</i></p>	<p>"We, shepherds are used to silence rather than words, but they had something that inspired us with confidence and I dared to speak bluntly and make the questions we all wanted to make: - Why did the glory of God shine precisely around us, who remain aloof from Him and his commandments? Who will believe us, despised and rejected, when we tell everybody that we have been announced that God's love and care embrace us all? And how come that a baby born in a place like this should be the signal for the Messiah everybody is waiting for?</p> <p>La mirada de un pastor de Belén, Dolores Aleixandre</p>
	<p>vv 8 – 16 The shepherds <i>Jesus was born at night in a manger, and nearby some shepherds were keeping guard of their sheep. Shepherds were very poor in those times, and were always looking after their sheep in the mountains.</i> <i>Imagine you are a shepherd ... it is late at night, what does the landscape look like? What are your tasks? Now imagine that, in the middle of the night a strange light comes from the sky... it's an angel who tells you: "Do not be afraid! Rejoice! Because tonight a Savior has been born to you, his name is Jesus! Go and visit him in the manger!"</i> <i>Imagine that all the shepherds hurried away to the manger to see Jesus. How did they feel? Why did they run so fast? What were they talking about?</i></p>	
	<p>vv 16 – 20 The joy of the shepherds <i>When the shepherds arrived at the manger, they saw a very humble woman, a very modest man and a baby boy wrapped in swaddling clothes lying on a pile of grass because he had no cradle, and surrounded by sheep. They recognized that that baby in such a poor and humble place was the Savior.</i> <i>Imagine you are a shepherd, How do you introduce yourself to the Virgin? What do you tell her? What do you tell Joseph? Have a look at the baby who is God. Caress him gently.</i></p>	
<p>Colloquy</p>	<p><i>Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts. Shepherds didn't have much but anyway, they took some presents with them. Imagine ... what present would you like to give baby Jesus? Hold baby Jesus in your arms and give him your present.</i></p>	