

Sunday 24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Today's Gospel reading: Luke 1: 26-38

During Advent, we have been thinking about the people who pointed the way to Jesus – patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist – and today we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus. Our Gospel reading is the story of the visit by the Angel Gabriel to Mary and we give thanks for Mary's response – her "yes" to God.

This Christmastime, are we ready to say "yes" to God when he calls us?

How many candles are lit on the Advent wreath today?

Christmas is very nearly here. Today is also Christmas Eve. Are you ready for Christmas? Ready to welcome Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with us"?

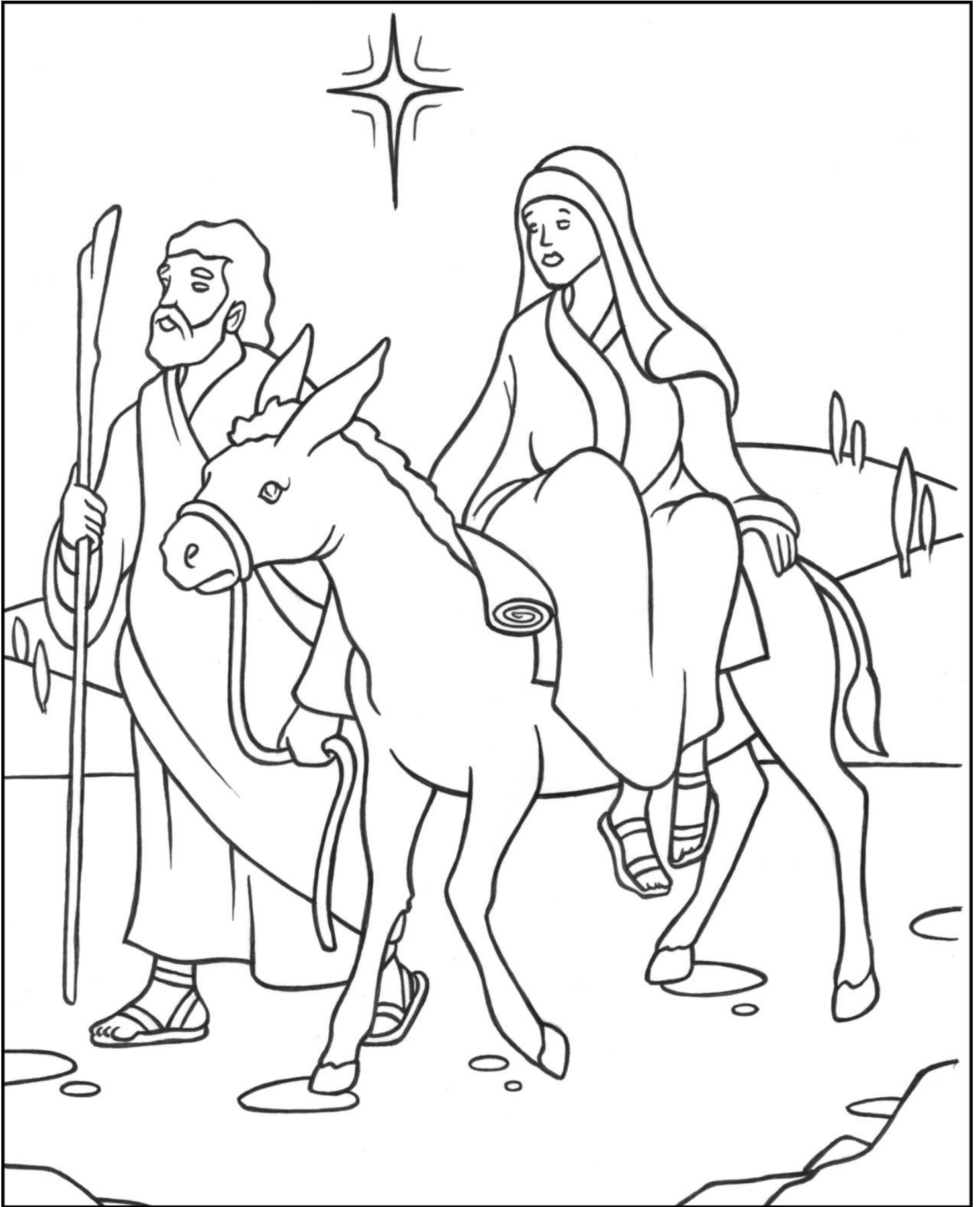
Can you write or draw about how you would like to celebrate Jesus' birth if you could do whatever you want? You can be as imaginative as you like!



Prayer for lighting the fourth candle:

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.







Tonight, at Midnight Mass, the Christchild candle on our wreath will be lit.



The prayer for lighting the Christchild candle:

God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world. Amen.

Happy Christmas!



