



Happy Sunday, Friends!

It's the fourth Sunday of Advent and I am feeling the **LOVE!!!** Are you getting excited? I know I am.

This week our story focuses on the Reason for the Season. This is what we have been waiting for all advent long. It's a story I bet you know really well. It's the big end scene in Charlie Brown Christmas, which I love and watch every year. I put the video clip at the end of your lesson.

This is such an exciting time of year. But this story offers us even more to be excited about. This story is so full of hope that we can know we are never alone. God is with us—on Christmas and always—through Jesus, who came to us as a little baby. In a year where things have been so difficult and challenging for everyone, this story offers us some much needed hope and joy.

Christmas is Jesus' birthday and presents are a fun part of birthdays and Christmas. Jesus is the best present of all, because he came to give hope to all people. We have celebrated Jesus' birthday for over 2,000 years. That's a lot of candles. On Christmas, we give each other presents to celebrate Jesus' birthday. The presents we give don't last 2,000 years. Jesus gives special unwrappable presents like hope, peace, and joy. These presents don't come in a box; they come to our hearts.

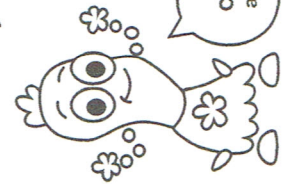
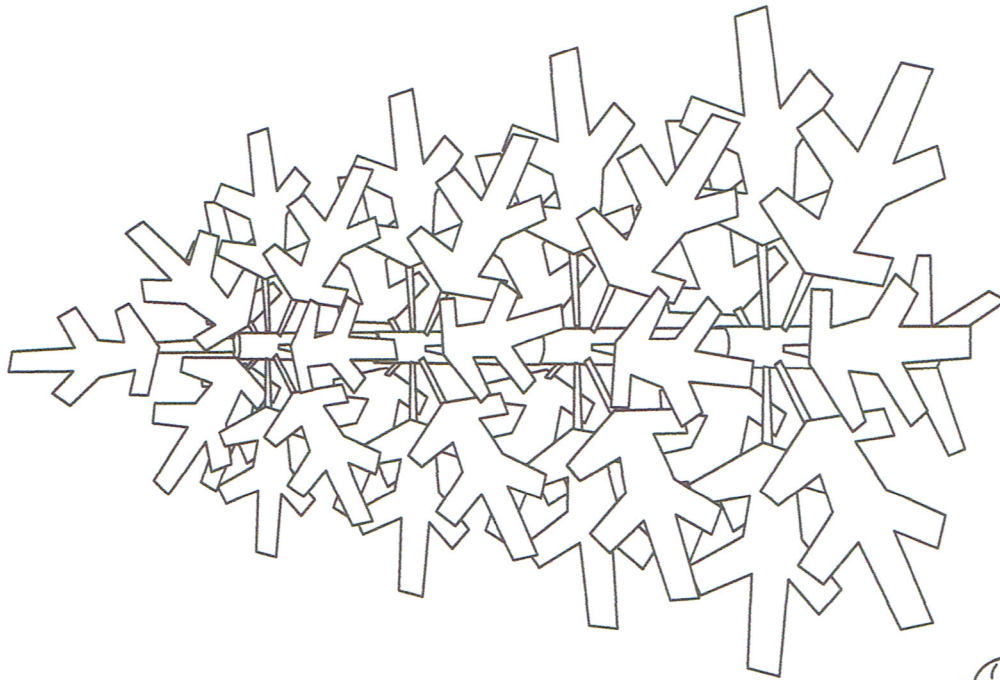
Attached are some activities and coloring sheets. Enjoy!

Finally, Merry Christmas, my dear friends. I hope your Christmas is filled with all the presents that come to your hearts. And I hope you know how much you are loved and missed.

Take Care,
Gabrielle Heimerling
Director, Youth and Family Services

Is there a Christmas tree in your church?

Draw the ornaments you see.



We have two trees—a Christmas tree at home and a Christmas tree at church!

Jesus Is Born

TODAY'S THEME IS HOPE.



Pre-Reader



Today we celebrate the day Jesus was born!

Jesus was a baby, just like you were!
Do you see any babies in church? Count them.
When you see them, remember that Jesus was a baby too!
Draw a hat on this baby to keep its head warm.



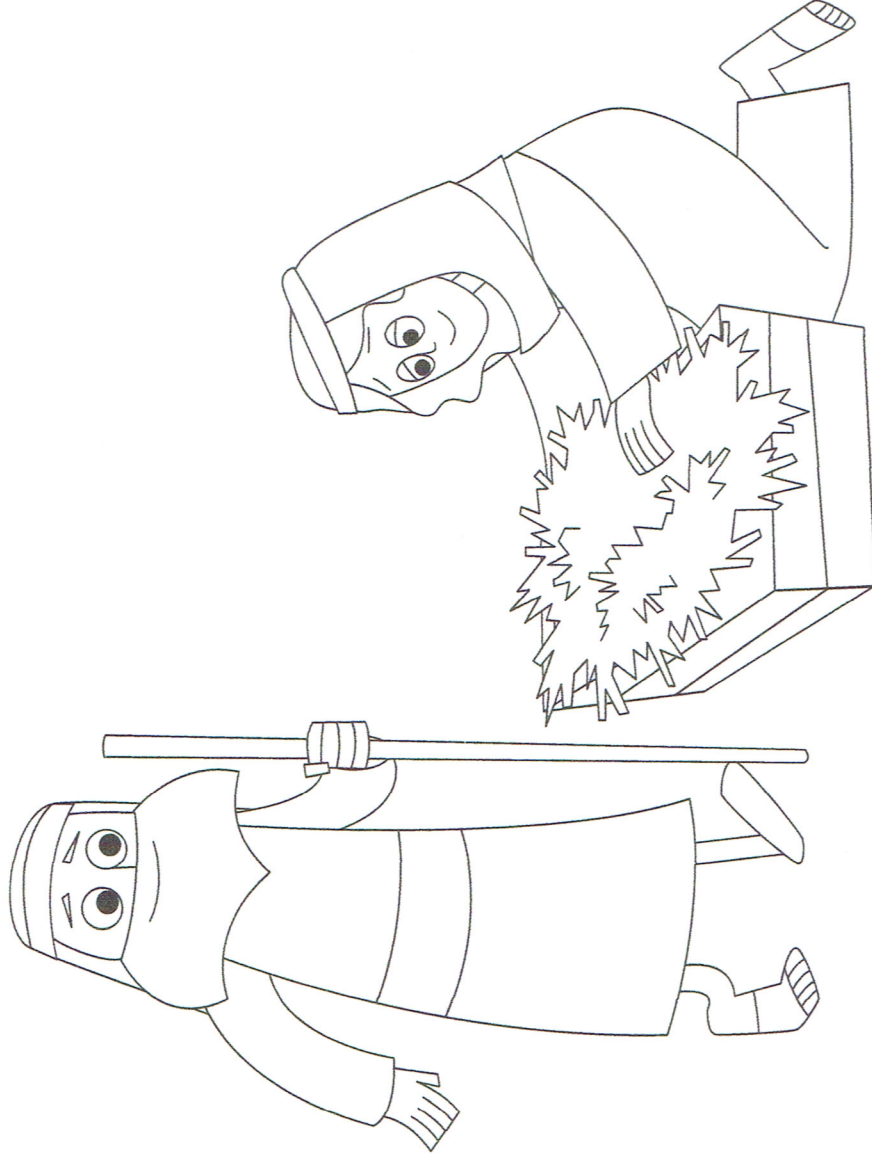
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Jesus is born!

Draw baby Jesus, an angel, a sheep, and a star to finish this picture of Jesus' birth.



Today our church family prays for...

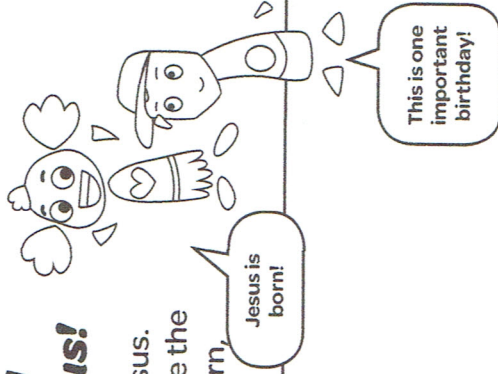
Jesus Is Born

TODAY'S THEME IS HOPE.



Today we are learning about the birth of Jesus!

Design a birth announcement for Jesus. Birth announcements usually include the baby's name, parent names, date born, baby's weight, and a picture.



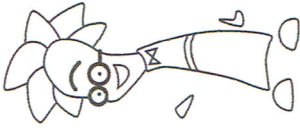
This is one important birthday!

Jesus is born!

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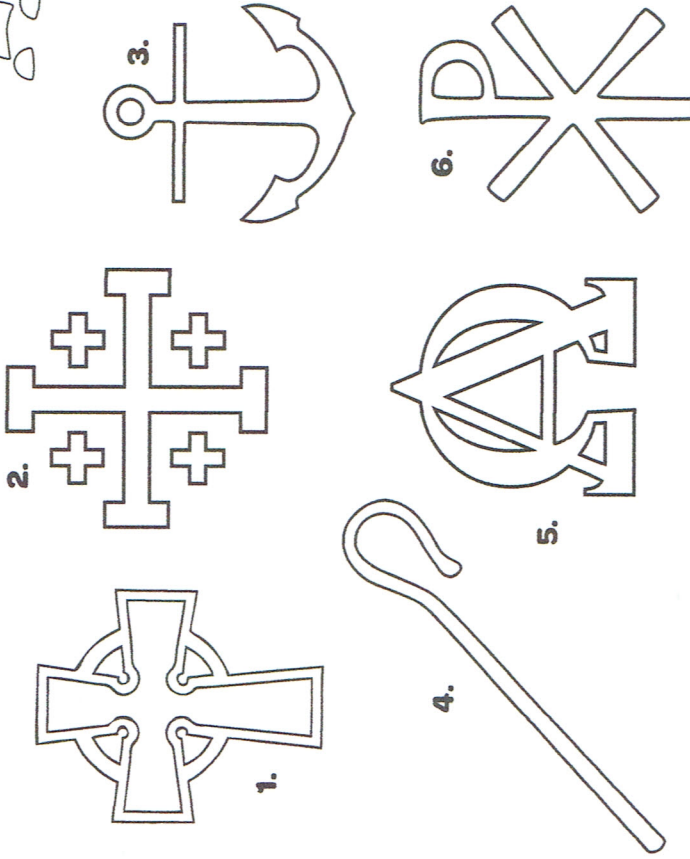
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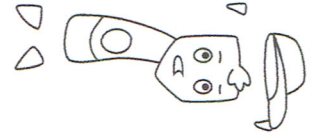


Many churches decorate their trees with ornaments that have Christian symbols on them. They're called *chrismons*.

There are many symbols with different names. Can you guess what these symbols represent?



Do you have chrismons on your church tree? Draw one if you do. If not, draw what is on your church's tree.



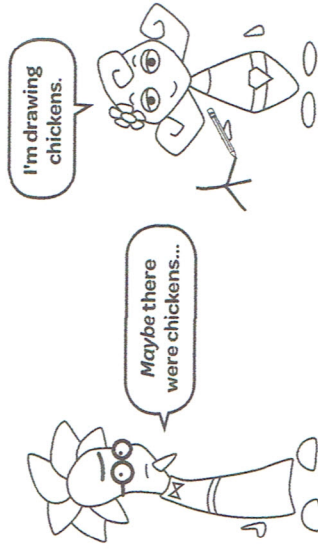
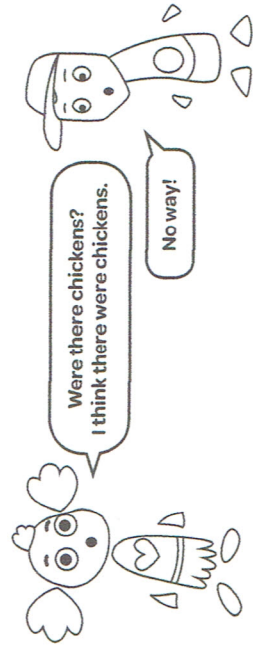
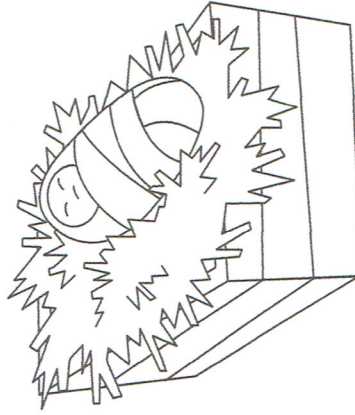
I'm getting dizzy!

1. Celtic Cross, 2. Jerusalem Cross, 3. Anchor Cross, 4. Shepherd's Crook, 5. Alpha & Omega, 6. Chi Rho

Jesus is born! ..

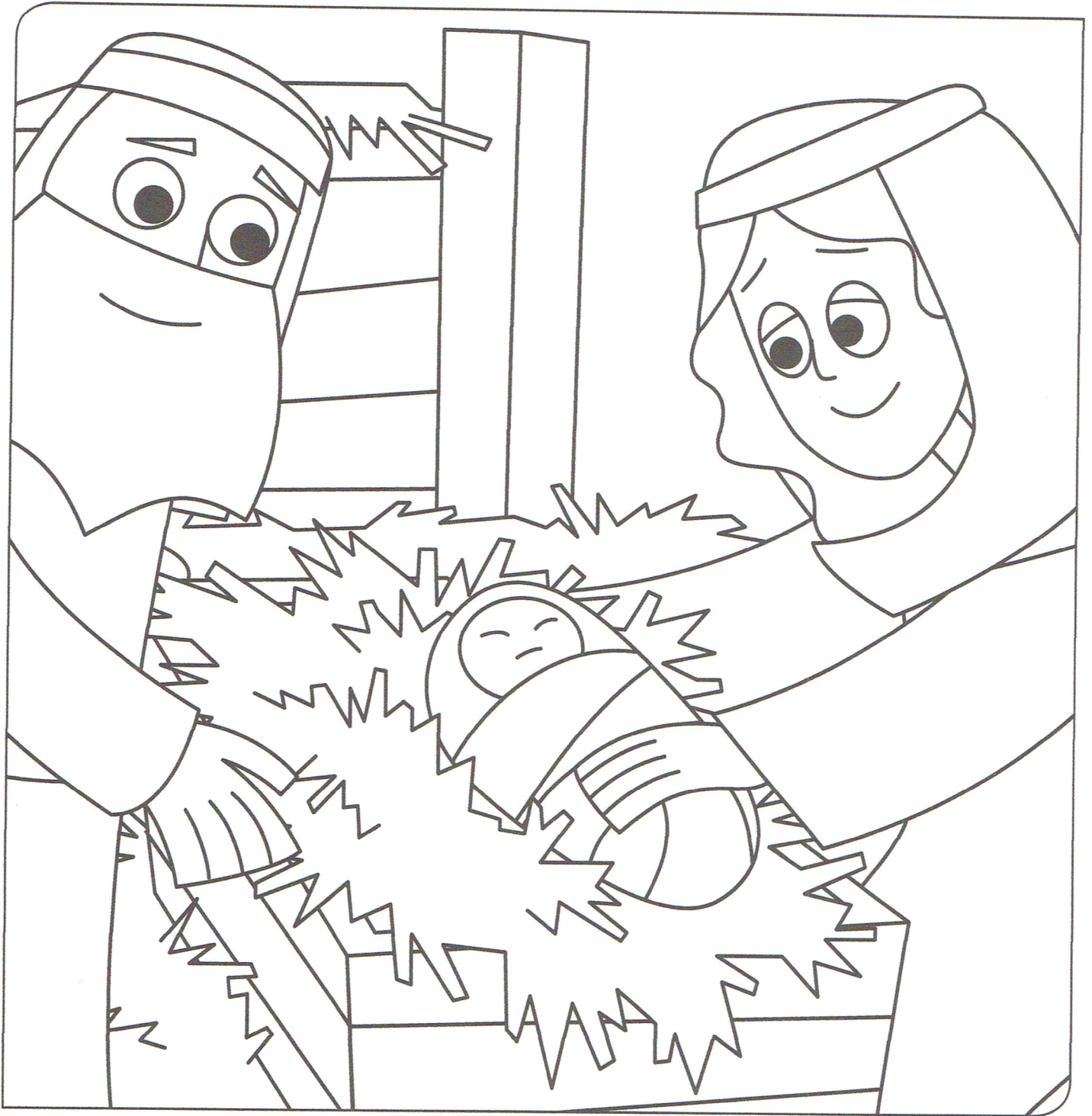
Baby Jesus is here! But everything else is missing! Finish the picture.

Draw Mary, Joseph, a star, an angel, some shepherds, some animals, and whatever else you think was there.

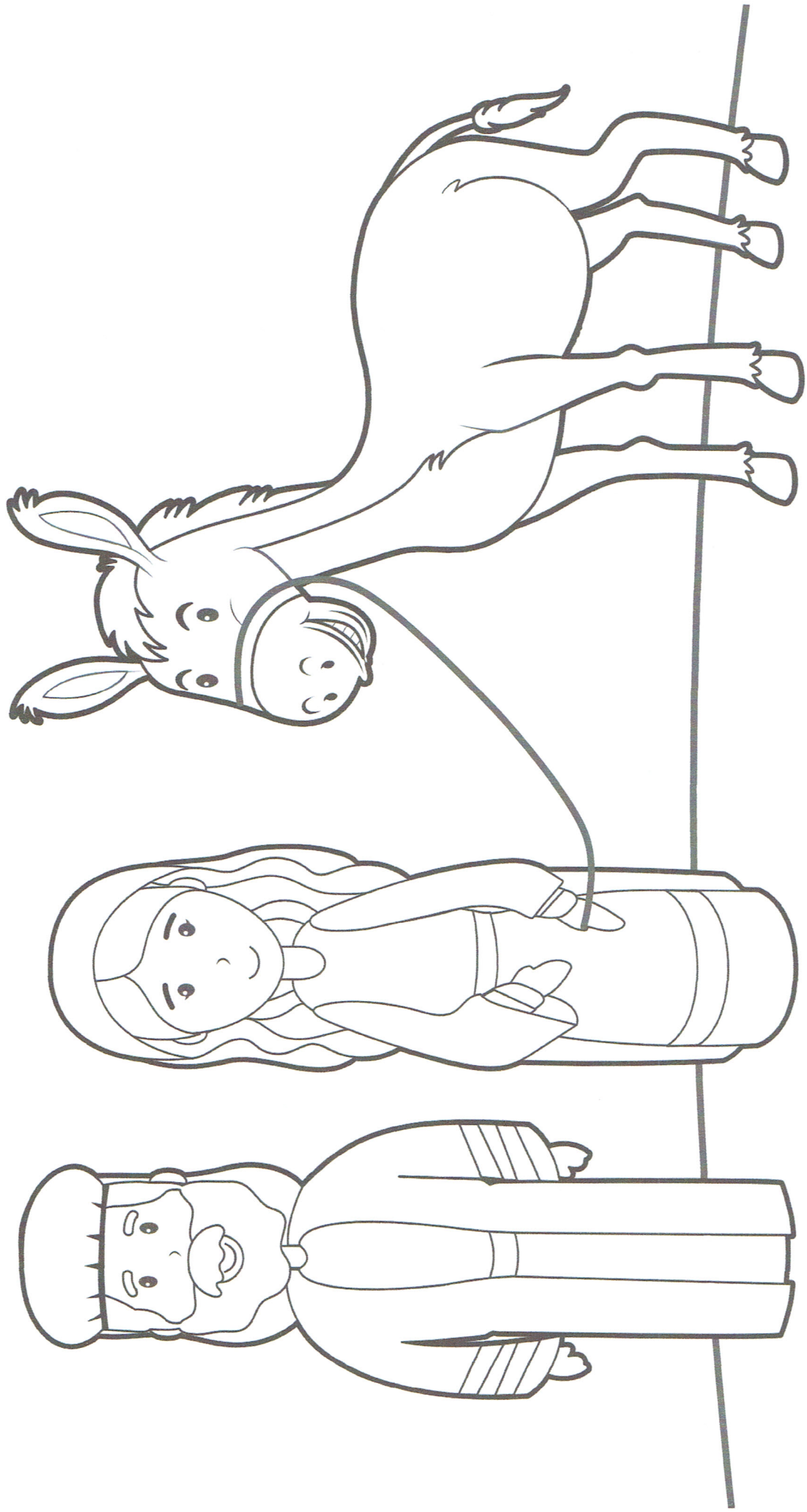


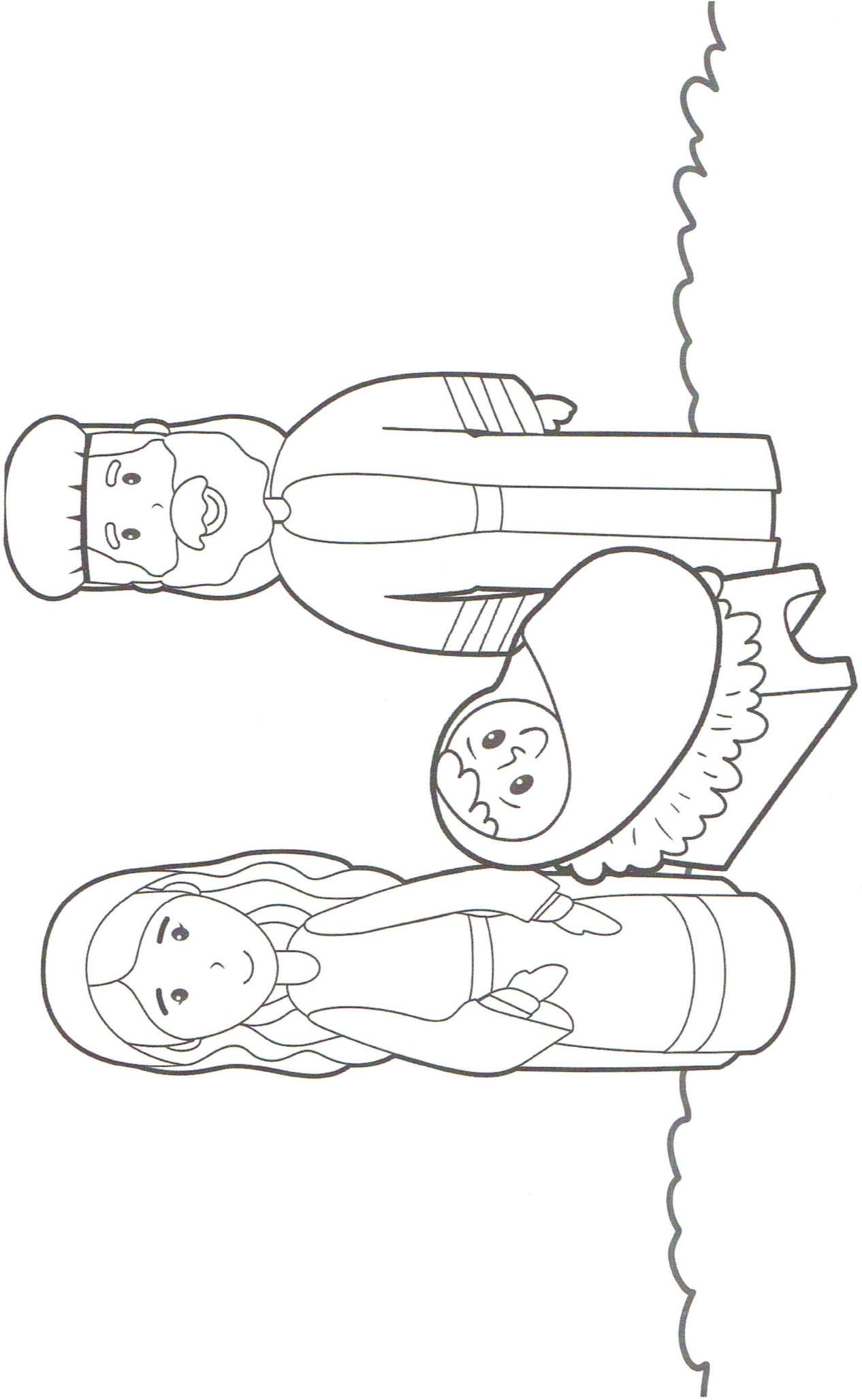
Today our church family prays for...

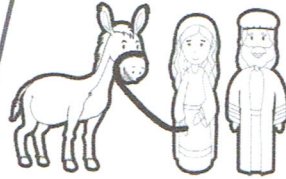
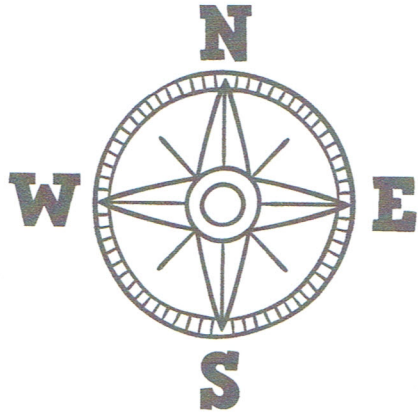
Jesus Is Born



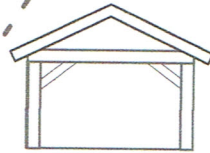
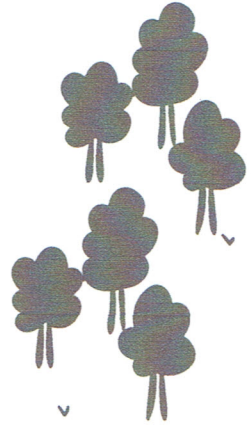
Joseph found a simple wooden manger for Jesus' bed. Mary wrapped her newborn son tightly in cloth and laid him on the golden hay. What do you think it was like in the stable that night?







Nazareth



Bethlehem

