

## The shepherds' faith

Sometimes it is easy to envy the shepherds – angels appeared to them – they were among the first to see the baby Jesus. It might seem that they did not need any faith at all the way we do. But between the angel's speaking and the shepherds seeing the newborn child was their believing. They believed the angel's message. Only because they believed did they journey to Bethlehem to see.

For us believing comes before seeing also. We do not see Jesus and then come to believe in him but most often as we believe in him then we learn to see him in ways and in people and places we never saw him before our believing. Messengers of God (the word angel means messenger) call us to believe in Jesus and as we believe their word we too set off for Bethlehem. In the bread broken, the cup shared, in our neighbor in need, in the word of God proclaimed we "see" Jesus and give thanks to God. Like shepherds we believe and then we see.