

## **THE GREATEST DISTANCE EVER TRAVELED**

As the Christmas season envelops us with its warmth and wonder, we are reminded of the profound journey that lies at the heart of this celebration. This journey, unparalleled in its magnitude and significance, is the journey of God's Son from the celestial realms of heaven to the humble manger in Bethlehem. This is the greatest distance ever traveled, a journey that surpasses all the others in history.

### **The Journey of the Magi**

The message begins with the familiar story of the Magi, wise men from the East, who embarked on a long and arduous journey to seek the newborn King. Their quest, driven by a prophecy and guided by a star, took them across vast distances, overcoming numerous obstacles. Their journey is a testament to the lengths they were willing to go to worship the newborn King. Yet, as remarkable as their journey was, it pales in comparison to the journey of Jesus Himself.

### **From Heaven to Earth**

The true marvel of Christmas is the journey of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As the Gospel of John tells us, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" The Word left the splendor of heaven to dwell among us. The distance He traveled is not merely measured in miles but in the vast chasm between the divine and the human, the eternal and the temporal.

### **From Eternity to Time**

Jesus' journey was not only from heaven to earth but also from eternity into time. He, who existed before the foundation of the world, entered our temporal realm, resetting the clock of history. His birth split time into BC and AD, marking a new era in human history. This transition from the timeless to the temporal underscores the magnitude of His sacrifice and the depth of His love for us.

### **From Spirit to Body**

In taking on human flesh, Jesus journeyed from spirit to body. The infinite God became finite, the invisible became visible. This incarnation is the most astonishing aspect of the Christmas miracle. God, who is spirit, took on a human nature, subjecting Himself to the limitations and vulnerabilities of a physical body. This is what was needed and necessary for Him to become Immanuel, God with us.

### **From Joy to Pain**

Perhaps the most poignant aspect of Jesus' journey is His transition from immeasurable joy to unimaginable pain. He left the perfect harmony, intimacy, and peace that existed within the Trinity, to enter a world filled with rejection, suffering and pain. His journey from the cradle to the cross was marked by His love for you — a love so profound that it compelled Him to endure the ultimate sacrifice for our redemption.

### **A Call to Know Him**

As we reflect on this incredible journey, we are reminded of the question that God will one day ask each of us: "Do you know my Son?" The wise men overcame the obstacles, and the dangers their journey would entail, so they could come to see Him, know Him, and ultimately fall on their knees and worship Him. God has given us the opportunity to do the same.

This Christmas let us not be indifferent to the wonder of His coming. Let us seek to know Him more deeply, to embrace the love that brought Him from heaven to earth, and to make Him the priority in our lives.

**Let's Make Much About Jesus on Christmas Eve**

Whether you are seeking answers, looking to deepen your faith, or simply want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, we welcome you to be here for Christmas Eve service at 4:30. Come celebrate the greatest journey ever taken and the love that made it possible. May this Christmas be a time of renewed commitment to know and follow the One who came so far for us