

I take the same route every day.

I walk down to the train. I climb up all those stairs behind someone who's always a little too slow.

And the kids are waiting to jump the turnstiles and to hop on the train. And we're all just there.

Today, somebody was listening to some kind of Spanish music too loud. And everyone was annoyed. And we were still all just trying to get somewhere together.

But it's the same thing every day. It's the same thing every day. I walk. I ride. I walk.

Just the weather is colder. And it gets colder and darker earlier and longer. And it can be hard. It can be hard.

Not seeing people this time of year. Not being able to be with families so far away.

And every day can feel the same.

And then I hear about that story again. The story that we tell every single year about this teenage girl and an angel that comes. And she says yes. And then she and her husband-to-be go and they have to do a census somewhere. And angels terrify these poor shepherds in a field. They yell at them and tell them not to be afraid.

The angels leave and the shepherds walk in the dark to Bethlehem.

And they come upon this little place. And there's a little family. And they didn't have anything ready for this baby. There were no diapers. They had rags. They wrapped the baby in rags.

And Mary is there asleep. And Joseph is just staring at this baby who is to be his son. And these shepherds show up and say something about angels and a savior. And that God has done this for them. And it's exactly what the angels told them to expect.

It was just supposed to be another day, another cold night, another long night of sleeping with sheep out in a dark field.

And God did something new and terrifying and holy and dangerous. God had to come close. God had to become vulnerable. And Jesus had to be born in an unexpected place and through unexpected people. This poor Palestinian Jewish boy given to you and to me. And it changes everything. Merry Christmas, everyone. God has come near. Merry Christmas.



Bishop Katrina Foster

