

The Nativity of our Lord  
December 24, 2018  
The Very Rev. Denise Trogdon  
**Children's Homily**

You did such a wonderful job of telling the Christmas story! And each of you had an important part in telling us the good news of Jesus' birth. There were angels and shepherds, Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. Were we missing any characters tonight? How did those shepherds find their way to Bethlehem? Oh my! Where is the star of the Christmas play? The star had a very important job that night. Let me tell you a story about the littlest Christmas star.

One snowy afternoon Max's teacher announced his class would put on a Christmas play. Everyone was excited, especially Max. He couldn't wait to have a part. Even though he was the littlest in his class, Max hoped he could be the star of the show. The next morning the teacher called out the roles each student would play. Max waited and squirmed. Finally, the teacher said, Max you will be the star. Max's eyes grew wide, he smiled a big, big smile. You will be the star of Bethlehem. Your line will be, Follow me. Max sank down in his chair. I only have one line? Yes Max, but it is a very important line!

Everyone in the class was buzzing with excitement. I have ten lines said Sophie, I get to paint the set, said Henry. But Max was sad. He wanted to have a big part in the play but instead he had the littlest one. The next week at school the class prepared for the show. There were costumes to make, lines to learn and songs to practice. Max didn't know what to do. He had his one line memorized. Max decided to help out with the other parts. Max began to practice the part of Mary. He made his voice as loud as he could. Hey that's my part said Sophie! Max wandered to where the set was being painted. He dabbed a brush in purple paint and began to paint a tree. He wanted the trees to stand out on stage. I'm the set painter said Henry, and besides trees aren't purple anyway! Max went out to the hall where the chorus was practicing their song. He sang at the top of his lungs even though he didn't know the words. Ava said, you're not in the chorus! Max's teacher said, you are supposed to practice your line, we need you to be the best Christmas star you can be.

Finally the night of the Christmas play arrived. Max's family was in the audience, ready to see his performance. Max was not smiling. No one will even notice me, he told his teacher. Of course they will Max! Wait and see. Max waited for his turn. All was quiet. Max walked on to the stage and a bright light shone down just on him. Max saw that everyone was watching him. He stood extra tall on his tiptoes and took a deep breath. Follow Me! He said in his biggest voice, and the audience clapped and cheered. His teacher was right. He may have had a small part, but Max was a big star!

Tonight each of you helped to tell the story of Jesus' birth in the stable. You lit the way to the manger. No matter how big or small, we can all be a guiding star to Jesus. If God's love can come to earth as a little baby, can't each of us be God's love too? Every time we do that, we light the way to Jesus. We did have a Christmas star after all. It was each of you! Merry Christmas one and all!

