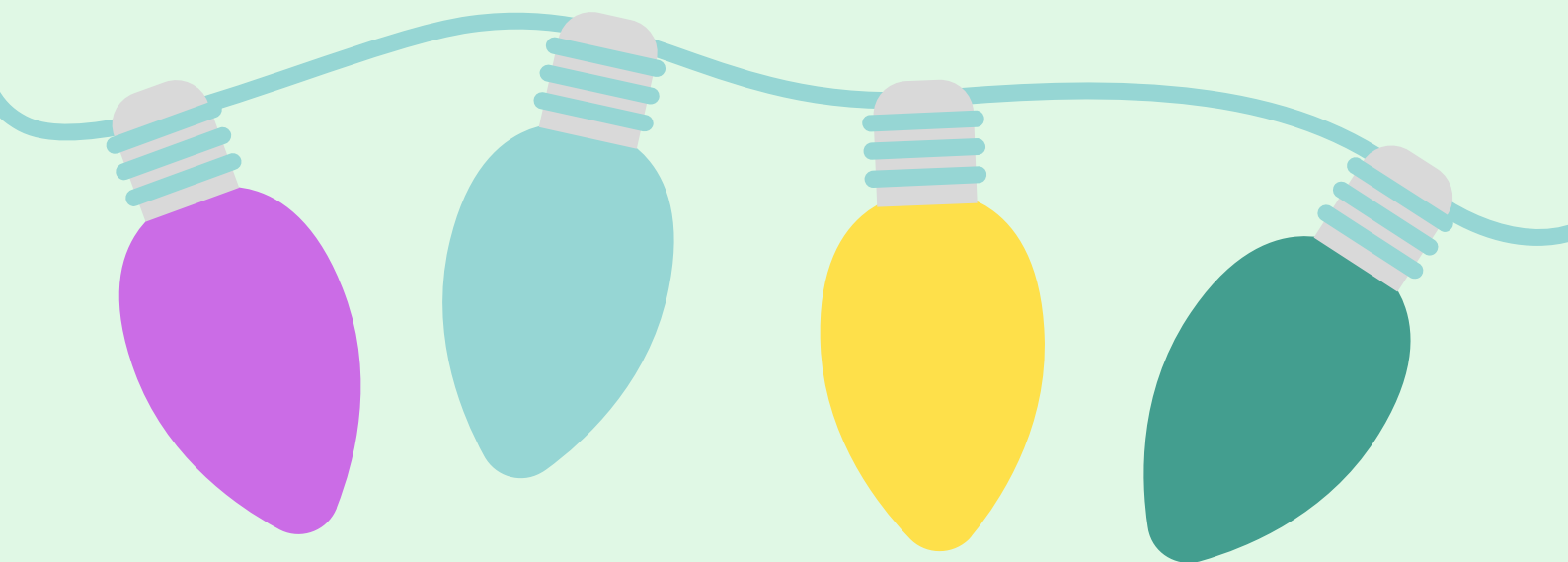


Christmas Story Trail



Christmas Story Trail

Stop 1

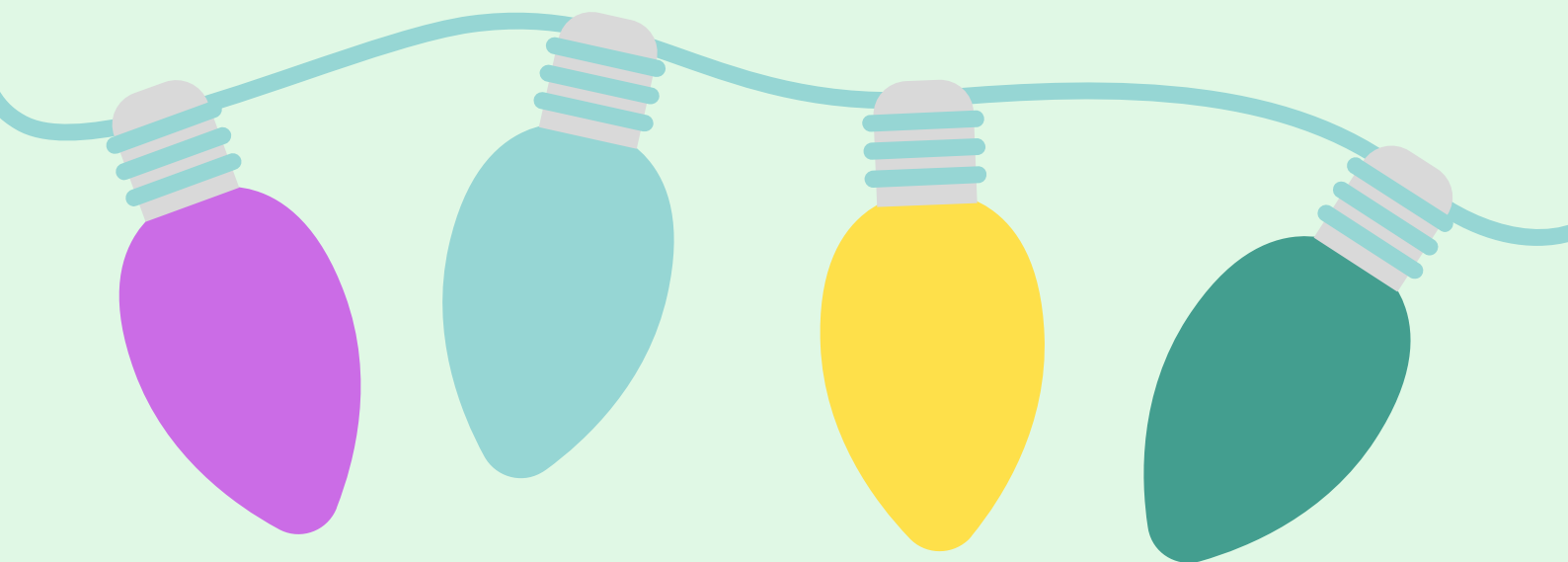
Welcome to the Christmas Story Trail!

This is your first stop and we are so glad you are here to explore the Christmas Story for yourself!

The story of Christmas goes back a long, long time ago. We want to start by showing you how God's son, Jesus was promised even before he was born. Did you know that?

God told His people that they were to expect a Messiah, someone who would come to save them. We read in the Old Testament about this Messiah in Isaiah 9:6b-7:

“God will give us a son who will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be “Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.” His power will continue to grow, and there will be peace without end. This will establish him as the king sitting on David's throne and ruling his kingdom. He will rule with goodness and justice forever and ever. The strong love that the Lord All-Powerful has for his people will make this happen!”



Christmas Story Trail

Stop 2

Not just an ordinary baby! God brought His Son into the world to be fully human and fully God. So, you can imagine that this wasn't a normal baby even before He was born. We read in the Bible about an Angel visiting Mary to explain what will happen.

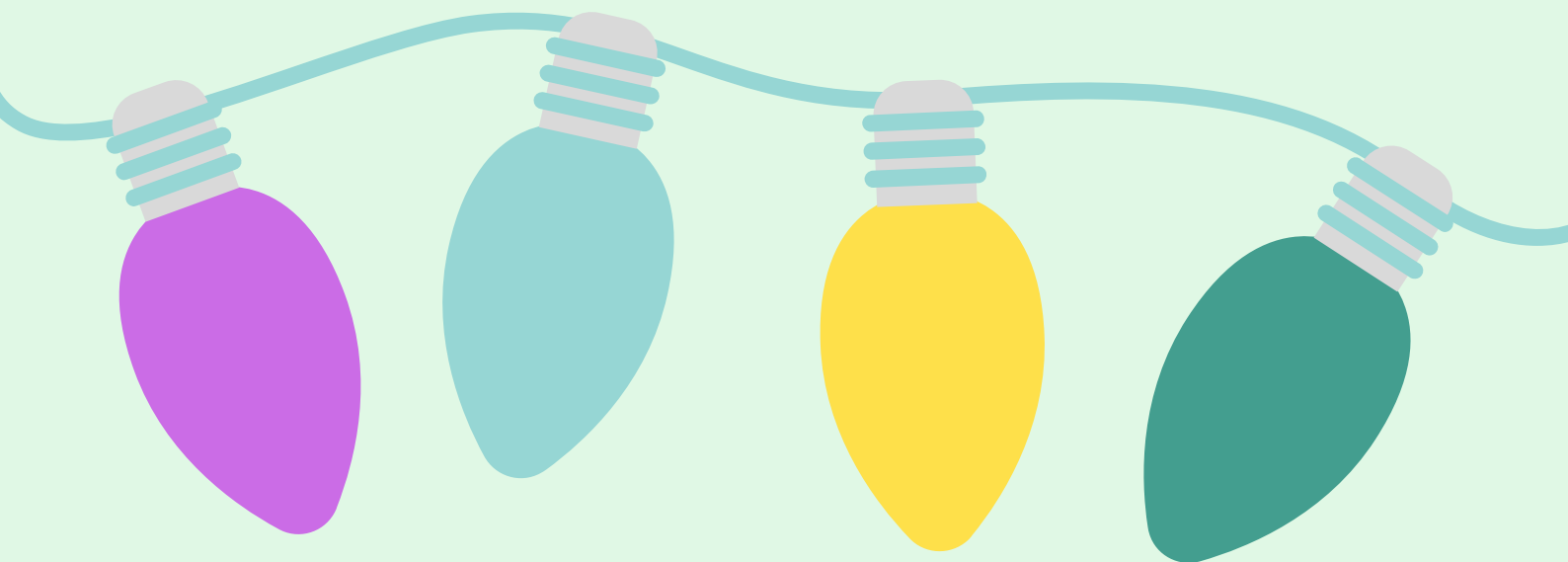
Luke 1:30-38 says "The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is very pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant and have a baby boy. You will name him Jesus. He will be great. People will call him the Son of the Most High God, and the Lord God will make him king like his ancestor David. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am still a virgin."

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of the Most High God will cover you. The baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God...God can do anything!"

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let this thing you have said happen to me!" Then the angel went away."

God can do anything! What an amazing reminder to us!



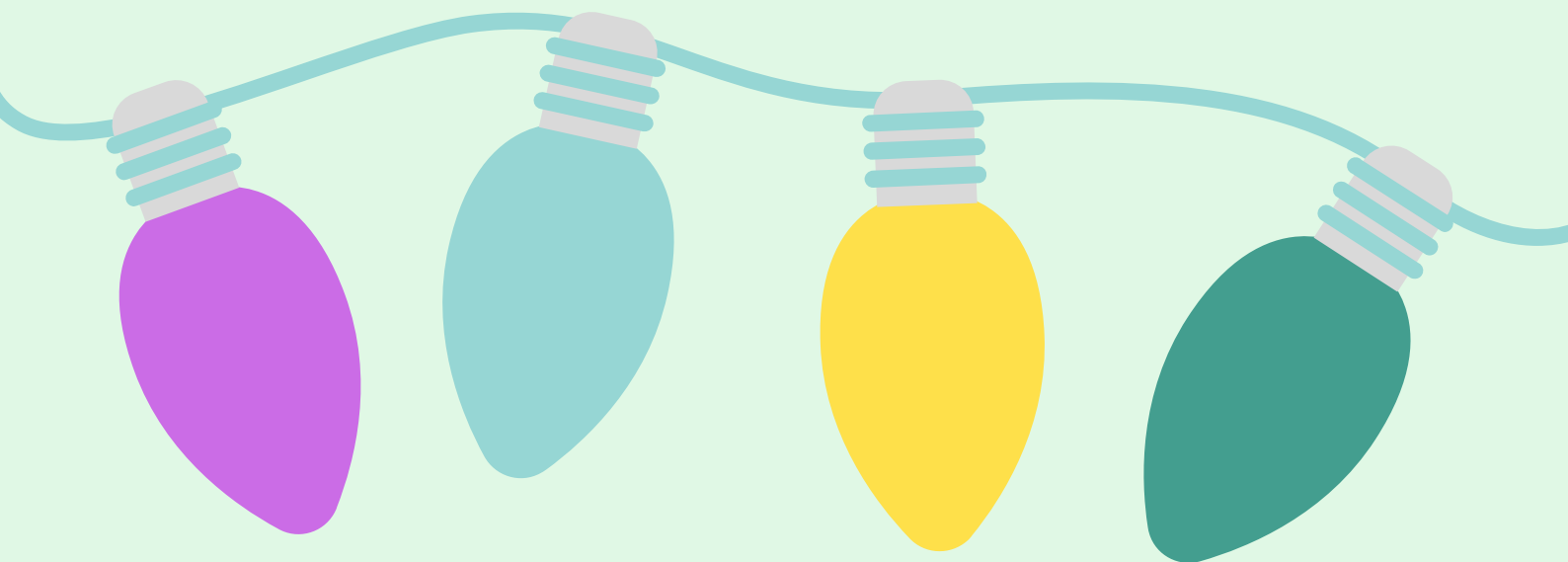
Christmas Story Trail

Stop 3

God with us. One of the most beautiful and epic things about Advent is remembering that God did not want to be separated from us. So, he took human form and became God with us. God among us. Check out this next passage to see what was said about Jesus before he was born.

Matthew 1:19-25 says “Mary’s husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to cause her public disgrace, so he planned to divorce her secretly. But after Joseph thought about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream.

The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to accept Mary to be your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name him Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.” All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord said through the prophet: “The virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. They will name him Immanuel.” (Immanuel means “God with us.”) When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord’s angel told him to do. He married Mary. But Joseph did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And he named him Jesus.”



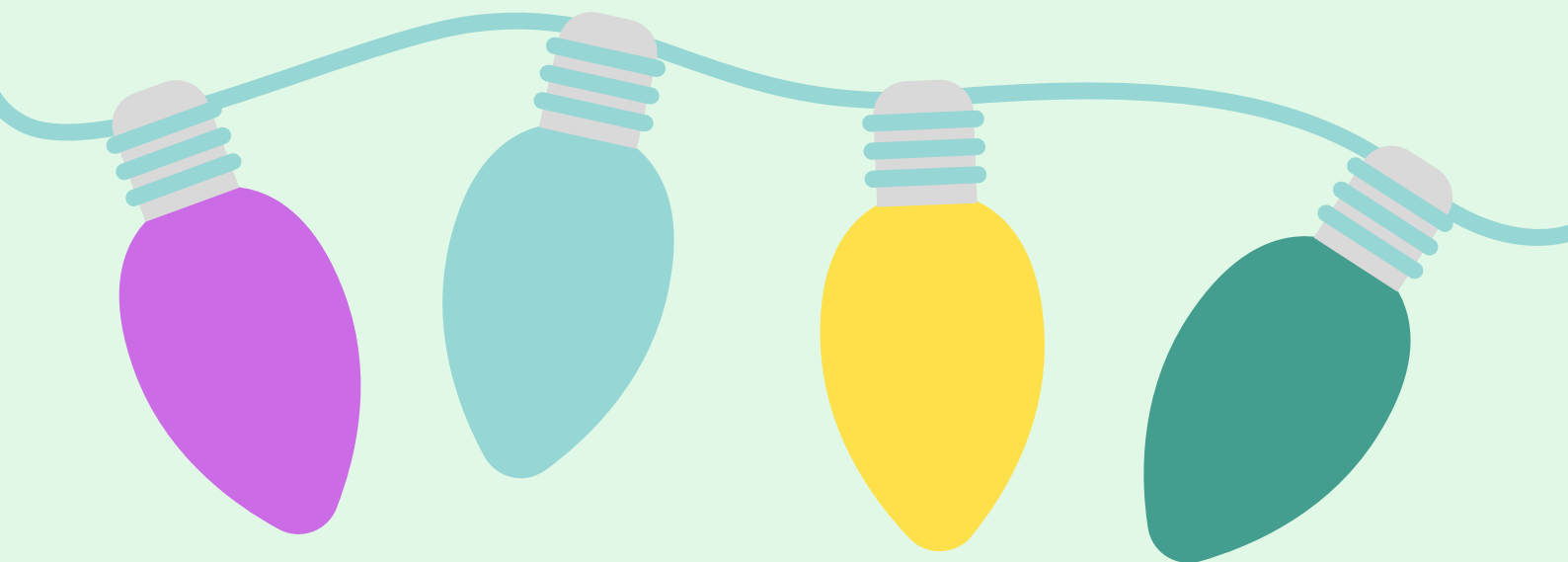
Christmas Story Trail

Stop 4

In Stop 2 we said Jesus was no ordinary baby, yet here we see a very ordinary baby. There was no special treatment. There was no security. There was just a family and a newborn baby. In the midst of difficult times, they sought to love and protect a vulnerable child.

Read together from Luke 2:6-7

“While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full.”



Christmas Story Trail

Stop 5

Our final stop.

As you have explored the Christmas story, both the facts of what happened and its significance, we want to remind you of the beauty of the story.

We read from John 1:1-5, 14, 18

“Before the world began, the Word was there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was there with God in the beginning. Everything was made through him, and nothing was made without him. In him there was life, and that life was a light for the people of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not defeated it. **The Word became a man and lived among us.** We saw his divine greatness—the greatness that belongs to the only Son of the Father. The Word was full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. The only Son is the one who has shown us what God is like. He is himself God and is very close to the Father.”

God came to bring light into the world through Jesus so that we would know what God is like. We encourage you to go and discover more about God. We as a church family would love to support you to do this, so if you would like to explore this together please get in touch with us using the details below.