

# When Joseph Went to Bethlehem

Words by: Bessie Saunders Spencer

Music by: I. Reed Payne

Pictures from: Gospel Art Picture Kit  
& LDS Newsroom ([www.lds.org/newsroom](http://www.lds.org/newsroom))

When Joseph went  
to Bethlehem,



I think he took great care

To place his tools



and close his shop  
and leave no shavings there.



He urged the donkey forward  
then, with Mary on its back,



And carried bread  
and goat cheese  
in a little linen sack.



I think there at the busy inn  
that he was meek and mild



And awed to be the guardian of  
Mary's sacred child

Perhaps all through  
the chilly hours he  
smoothed the swaddling bands,



And Jesus felt  
the quiet strength  
of Joseph's gentle hands.



And close beside  
the manger bed,  
he dimmed the lantern's light



And held the little Jesus  
close upon that holy night.