

# You Are Beloved



**Jenny & Rev. Chris Lee**

ILLUSTRATED BY CARLO MOLINARI

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*You Are Beloved*

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FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN.





## Ponderings for Parents

This story begins with Amy drifting off to sleep in church to the words “Lord, teach me who You are, and teach me who I am too,” which comes from a prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. The story hinges on this beautiful prayer, as Amy learns more about who God is—and who she is to Him. Amy learns that God is wise, strong, reliable, comforting, and close, and she comes to see that she is beloved by God and that He never leaves her, no matter how dark things get.

As Amy journeys through forests, valleys, mountains, and fields, she meets the Eagle, the Lion, the Ox, and the Angel. These images are traditionally used to represent the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each creature—and each Gospel—shows us something important about God’s character.

We hope this book will encourage you and your children in faith, serving as a reminder of how great God is and how much He loves us. We also hope it paints a picture of life being a journey in which we can always look to God, always pray about what we’re facing, and always know that He is present. No matter where we find ourselves, He will guide and strengthen us along the way.

Love,

**CHRIS AND JENNY**





**JOHN'S GOSPEL** is represented as an eagle for two reasons. An eagle descending from above symbolizes Jesus' divinity, a key focus of this Gospel. Eagles are also known for their great vision, which is fitting for a Gospel that emphasizes how Jesus' coming impacts the whole world. As Amy travels, she trusts in the Eagle's sight, and he takes time to wonder and rest with her. He is both glorious and personal.



**MARK'S GOSPEL** is traditionally symbolized as a lion. This Gospel presents Jesus as a miracle worker able to defeat evil, as well as a King with great authority—a powerful, regal lion. When Amy finds herself in a thorny valley, the Lion walks with her. She feels stronger and gains courage with him by her side.



**LUKE'S GOSPEL** emphasizes the sacrificial attributes of God, the willingness of Jesus to lay down His life for the people He loves. From the Ox, Amy learns about the pastoral, loving heart of God as he carries her.



**MATTHEW'S GOSPEL**, represented by an angel (sometimes depicted as a winged man), illustrates both the human and divine attributes of Jesus. The Angel shows Amy that God understands her human desires while also enabling her to experience the divine.

The family got ready,  
And off they all went  
To the church on the hill  
Where Sunday mornings were spent.

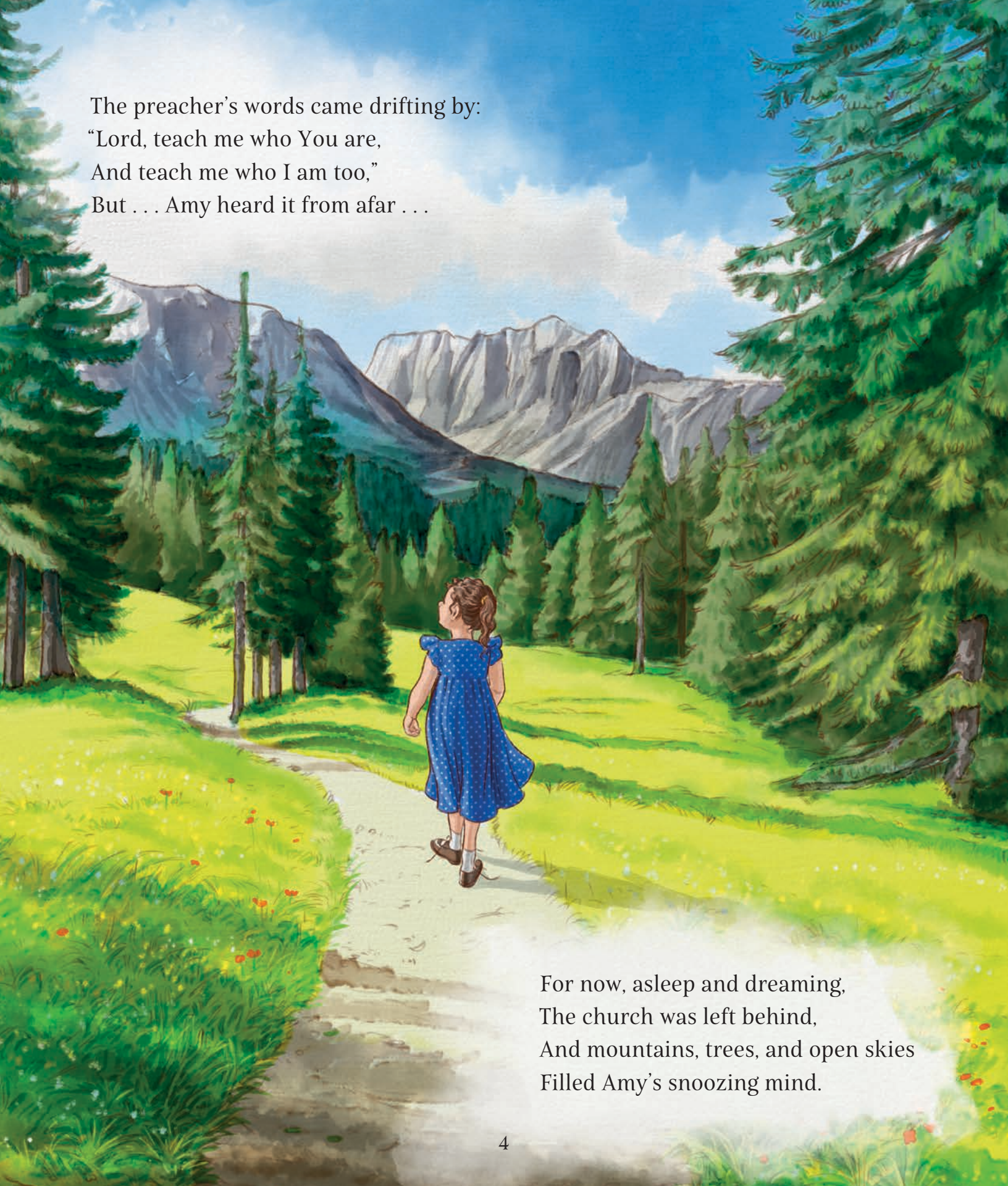


Amy liked the windows,  
She enjoyed a joyful song.  
The prayers she found quite peaceful,  
The sermon . . . a little too long.



She leaned against her mother's arm,  
Warm and soft and cozy.  
Her thoughts began to wander round,  
And she started feeling dozy.



A young girl with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue dress with white polka dots and brown shoes, is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path. The path is surrounded by lush green grass and small red flowers. In the background, there is a dense forest of tall evergreen trees, and beyond that, a range of rugged, grey mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

The preacher's words came drifting by:  
"Lord, teach me who You are,  
And teach me who I am too,"  
But . . . Amy heard it from afar . . .

For now, asleep and dreaming,  
The church was left behind,  
And mountains, trees, and open skies  
Filled Amy's snoozing mind.

She heard ground crunch beneath her feet—  
A path wound through a wood.  
She felt herself start walking.  
The trail felt right and good.

