

November 27, 2022

Christmas With Us

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Luke 2:8-14

[8](#)And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9](#)And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10](#)And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11](#)For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12](#)And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” [13](#)And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, [14](#)“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Background

Today we launch our new sermon series, “Christmas with Us,” as we corporately celebrate the birth of Jesus over the next few weeks. One of the most fascinating parts of the story is the birth announcement to the shepherds. In this week’s message, Pastor David will focus on the first phrase of the angel’s message, “Fear not!” We can only imagine the fearfulness of the shepherds as the sky lights up with the appearance of an angel. But the message of the birth of Jesus still speaks to us today. No matter what you may be facing today that stirs fear within you, the birth of Jesus teaches us that God is WITH us, FOR us, and OVER us.

Sermon Notes

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Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

Belong

- What was the most memorable part of your Thanksgiving holiday?

Believe

- What stood out to you the most about this week’s message? What statement was most meaningful and why? What other biblical truths of Scripture complement the message? What prompted questions in your own mind? What challenged you? What brought hope? What do you believe is the main “take away” from the message for your own life? How could you apply these truths to your life now?
- **Read Luke 2:8-14.** Why would the shepherds be filled with “great fear?” Apart from the appearance of an angel, what would have been logical fears of the time for the shepherds? What about others living in the area? What do we know about the cultural, social, and political environments of that day? How would the birth announcement of the long-awaited Messiah In your own words, how does the birth of Jesus help alleviate our fears even today?
- **Read Psalm 46, Psalm 56:1-4, and Luke 12:4-12.** What do these passages teach us about fear and faith? What do these passages teach us about the character of God? Why is God worthy of our trust despite our fears according to these passages? In what ways can these passages speak to any fears you have right now? What specific steps can you take this week to obey God confidently despite your fears? In what areas do you need encouragement, help, or accountability to obey God right now?

Become

- How does the truth that Jesus’ birth means God is with us, for us, and over us speak to a specific fear in your life right now? How does this bring hope to you?
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray God gives comfort to those who have lost loved ones recently. Pray God gives us opportunities to be generous with our time and resources to those in need. Pray God gives peace to those who suffer with loneliness or deep pain during the holiday season.