

December 4, 2022

Christmas With Us

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Luke 2:8-14

8And 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

As we continue our series, “Christmas with Us,” Pastor David will focus on the second phrase from the birth announcement of Jesus. Not only did the angel of the Lord tell the shepherds not to fear but he also told them there was “good news of great joy.” How exactly would this baby born in Bethlehem be “good news” for the shepherds and “all the people?” Better yet, in a modern world that seems to thrive from the never-ending cycle of “bad news,” how is the birth of Jesus “good news” for us today?

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’s your favorite Christmas gift you’ve ever received and favorite gift given?

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 again.** When you think about time and place of the birth of Jesus, what was happening that would be considered “bad news?” How could the birth of Jesus be “good news” for “all the people?” Why is this significant, even today? What earlier promise of God does this statement fulfill? Why was Jesus’ birth location (“the city of David”) such an important detail in the announcement? What does the description “a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” teach us about who Jesus is and what He came to do? How did people in the first century misunderstand Jesus’ role as Savior? What has Jesus ultimately come to save us from (and save us to)? What passages help us see this most clearly? What is significant about the title “Christ the Lord?” Do you think Jesus can be your Savior and not also “Lord” over your life? Why or why not?
- **Read Romans 1:16; 5:12-21; Titus 2:11-14.** How do each of these passages help us understand the “good news” of the coming of Jesus to earth? How do these passages help us understand more fully Jesus as “a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” In one sentence, how would you describe why Jesus’ birth is “good news” to you?

Become

- Share with the group one person to whom you could share the “good news” with this week.
- **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 will give each of us opportunity to share why the birth of Jesus is “good news.” Pray for ways to demonstrate God’s love to someone specifically this week.