

Shepherds—A Season to Rejoice

*Sunday December 19, 2021
Series: Christmas a Season of Hope*

An Ancient Greeting

*I salute you. There is nothing I can give you which you have not;
but there is much that, while I cannot give you, you can take.
No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today.*

Take heaven ...

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in the present.

Take peace ...

*The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within our
reach is joy. Take joy ...*

*And so at this Christmas time I greet you with the prayer that for
you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away.*

Italian architect-believer, Fra Giovanni, 1513

*“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
Jesus - John 15:11 ESV*

Joy is Available to Me!

*“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.”
Luke 2:8 ESV*

Why Shepherds?

- 1. Common People—God’s Focus**
- 2. Men Who Would Respond to God**
- 3. God is Available to Everyone (Me)**

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” *Matthew 11:28 ESV*

My Fear - My Greatest Barrier to God

*“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.”* *Luke 2:9 ESV*

“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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10–11 ESV

Fear Not!

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:31 ESV

What is the Announcement?

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

- **Savior**— someone who rescues something from danger or violence; especially used of Christ as the one who rescued His people from their sins and the resulting danger of judgment.
- **Christ**— means anointed one, the chosen one, the promised Messiah
- **Lord**—New Testament equivalent of Yahweh the personal name of God (Psalm 68:4).

“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.”

Luke 2:10 ESV

What is the Good News?

The Gospel

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

(Also Matthew 5:48)

Romans 3:23 ESV

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23 ESV

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 ESV

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Romans 10:9–10 ESV

(Also Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 2:12-14)

What About Me?

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us...”

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.”

Luke 2:15, 18 ESV