

MESSAGE OUTLINE

The Season Of Hope - Christmas Eve

Luke 2:8–20 (NIV)

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth **peace** to those on whom his **favor** rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Good news that will cause great joy (v. 10)

The angel announces a Savior for all people.

“Advent calls us back to who we are by retelling us the story of which we are a part... If we do not rehearse this story—reminding ourselves again and again that this is what we are waiting for and longing for—we will inevitably live by another story.” – Tish Warren

Peace to those on whom His favor rests (v. 14)

The angels break through the darkness of the night sky to proclaim peace on earth.

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” – Julian of Norwich

Praising God for all they had heard and seen (v. 20)

The shepherds respond in worship and gratitude.

“Every great gift deserves a great response.”