

# SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 21.12.25

PREACHER: PS ANDY MAC

## The Christmas Story as Good News

### BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

**BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]**

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

#### **Conviction of a Disciple:**

A disciple learns to receive Christ not as advice for self-improvement, but as the saving presence of God who reconciles us to the Father and teaches us to live from true peace.

### OVERVIEW

At Christmas we long for resolution—for things to be fixed, finished, or healed. But the angels announce something deeper than circumstantial relief. In the birth of Jesus, God steps into human history to rescue us, remove every barrier to His presence, and offer peace rooted in reconciliation with Him. Christmas is not good advice for better living; it is good news of salvation.

### ACTION

**Q1.** Where are you seeking “borrowed comfort” instead of Christ’s deeper peace?

**Q2.** What barriers—real or imagined—have kept you from stepping fully toward God?

**Q3.** How might God be inviting you, like the shepherds, to step forward in faith this week?

# THOUGHT

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:8-20

At this time of year, we instinctively take stock of our lives. We look back over the months and feel the pressure for things to be resolved—to have relationships mended, grief eased, sickness healed, projects finished. Christmas carries with it a quiet demand: surely something should feel complete by now. And so we pray for relief, for comfort, for answers. None of these desires are wrong—but the Christmas story insists that God has come to give us something deeper than temporary resolution.

The angels appear but they do not offer advice. Instead, they bring an announcement. “Good news!” Not strategies for self-improvement. Not steps toward a better version of ourselves. But news that changes everything: “Today, a Saviour has been born to you.” Salvation comes as a person: Jesus, the Christ. Jesus—Yeshua, (which means “YHWH saves”—isn’t a coach, coming to lead us toward spiritual progress. He comes to rescue us.

This is why the messengers matter. God does not send philosophers, religious teachers, or Roman officials. Instead, He sends angels—heaven’s own witnesses. And He does not send His messengers to announce this Good News to a palace or a temple, but to the lowliest of the lowly—to shepherds in a field. This seemingly unimportant detail is so intentional by Luke (the only Gospel writer who mentions it). The glory of the Lord shines not in places of power, but in the weak, lowly, poor, ordinary, muddy spaces among people who feel terribly unqualified. In this moment, God reveals His heart: the Father whom Jesus reveals is the Father who reaches toward those most desperately in need.

Even the sign given is an act of mercy: A baby wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger. This little one is nothing impressive and his surroundings are less than desirable. Totally vulnerable and at the mercy of the world, God the infant removes every possible barrier and says to the broken, you are welcome here.

The shepherds respond not by waiting for proof, but by moving in faith. They go because God has spoken. Faith, in its truest form, is acting as though God’s word is already true. And when they see the child, they carry the news outward, glorifying and praising God. Salvation never ends with us; it sends us. True salvation always redirects our gaze to the needs of the hurting around us.

The peace announced that night is not the fragile peace of empire, nor the inner calm we chase through comfort and control. It is reconciliation with God Himself—the healing of the deepest fracture in the human soul. Everything else, as C.S. Lewis reminds us, is “borrowed comfort.”

This Christmas, we are invited to go beyond the manger scene and hear the announcement again: In Christ, we are saved, not improved. Not patched up, but saved. And in that salvation, we come face to face with the saviour; the One who walks with us through our often unresolved lives, anchoring us in the grace and peace of God.

# DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) Why is it tempting to treat Christianity as “good advice” rather than good news?
- 2) What stands out to you about God announcing salvation to shepherds?
- 3) How does reconciliation with God reshape the way you understand peace?

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Our Saviour and Prince of Peace, we lay down our striving and our need for quick fixes. Thank You for stepping into our darkness to rescue us and reconcile us to the Father. Help us to trust You, step forward in faith, and carry Your good news into every place we go.

Amen.