



19/12/21

Sermon: Christ our Shepherd-King by Ben S.

Reading Luke 2 :1- 20

Jesus is good news for all people

The birth of God's son was announced to the shepherds first because Jesus is good news for all people. Shepherds at this time were considered to be poor, smelly and rude. They were hated as thieves and morally and spiritually unclean. Respectable people did not mix with their kind. God is a God of glory who made the universe and when his glory shone on the shepherds they were terrified. It knocked them to their knees. They felt their sin and uncleanness in the presence of God. The angels told them not to be afraid because they were bringing good news of great joy for all the people. Everywhere we look there is bad news. But in this book [Bible] is the message about Jesus Christ and it is good news of great joy for all people. God sent a Saviour to the shepherds and to you and to me as well.

Some gifts are so wonderful they are hard to receive. If you find yourself in debt and a family member hears about it and offers you a large sum of money you have to swallow your pride to accept such a gift. But God has sent the world a Saviour wrapped up in swaddling cloths. It takes humility and a swallowing of pride to accept such a gift. To accept Jesus we have to admit we need forgiveness. Just like the shepherds on the hillside we fall short of God's glory but we are loved and invited to Christ. The shepherds are in glory today, not because they sorted themselves out, but because they believed the good news. They went to Jesus in faith knowing they needed forgiveness for sin. God announces the same good news to you, here, today. The shepherds teach us that the good news is for all people.

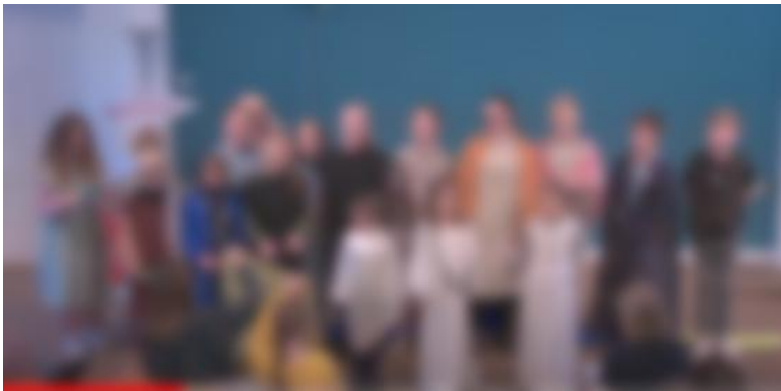
The Shepherds Teach us about the Very Heart of God. Shepherds have always been important to God: from Abraham to Isaac and Jacob and his sons, from David to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. God always treated the shepherds with great dignity and valued their unique work. Shepherds protect the sheep at night and care for the flock. Significantly these shepherds were outside Bethlehem, the town of David, the youngest son who looked after his father's flock. He was anointed king to care for and protect God's people. He was an ordinary sinful man who made serious mistakes but God promised that from his line would come one who would be God's Messiah. He would be the true anointed Shepherd-King who would save God's people. But he would suffer before entering into God's glory to rule over an eternal kingdom forever.

This baby, born in a manger, would become an ordinary carpenter who would change the world. He is at the very centre of human history. Jesus looked out at the crowds who followed him and saw them as vulnerable sheep without a shepherd. They had gone astray from God and their relationship with him was broken. Jesus longed to do the work of a shepherd for these people; to gather them in and bring them back to God. Jesus says that he is the "Good Shepherd that lays down his life for his sheep". (John 10:11-18) He went to the cross where he fought against our greatest enemy: sin, hell and death. He defeated the worst enemy of our souls. Three days later he was raised from the dead. Here and

around the world billions of Christians claim to know him. They say with David “The Lord is my Shepherd.” When Christians wake up in the night and they are anxious and fearful, they calm their souls with the knowledge that the Lord is on night watch. The lord neither slumbers nor sleeps. (Psalm 121:4) The Lord leads us through every dark valley in this life and on into the High country of Heaven.

As Christians our calling is to have a shepherd-like heart. We watch out for one another. We care for and protect one another under our shepherd-king who watches over us till we reach our eternal home in Heaven.

The Innkeeper’s Tale Nativity Play by Junior Church



Ben M. invited the team who worked on the renovations to the service and thanked them for all their skilled work.

