

Christmas Day Luke 2:1-20
Christ and Grace December 25, 2019
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But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

It's Christmas! After all the waiting and the preparing, probably to the extent of exhaustion for some of us, here we are on Christmas morning. The atmosphere of this day is different than that of Christmas Eve. It's less glory and praise and more pondering, perhaps because now we finally have time to think.

In the Christmas story we hear how everyone receives the news of the Incarnation, and the reactions range from fear and terror to joy, glory, and praise. The angels are so filled with joy that they cannot contain it and as the dark sky is torn open with God's glory they are bursting with good news! The shepherds are like so many of us who faithfully show up to do whatever needs to be done – they are the caretakers, who may be afraid at first but are “all in” when asked to assist. Mary and Joseph are bewildered and unsure, but ultimately they trust in the miracle of Word made flesh and invite this living Word into their lives, knowing it will change them forever.

We too are part of the Christmas story, each of us with a role to play in making known what has been told to us about this child, a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Jesus is God's gift of love to us, made visible in our lives, not in wrapping paper and ribbons, but as a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Love made visible in a baby who would change the world by changing the lives of each person who heard the story of that first Christmas, when love came down to save us.

This morning we can rest after birthing the great event that is Christmas, however it looks for us in our families. We can be still after all we have done to share God's love with others in countless ways this season. I want to invite you to take a few minutes to receive the great love that God has for you. How has the Silent Word, the Word of the Father, appeared in flesh in your life?

In the next few minutes, we are going to allow God to come to us in the silence. Close your eyes and think of the people in your life who have shared the gift of love with you, and the people whom you have loved deeply; people who are here, or are no longer physically with us, but so close in the Communion of Saints. And on this day when heaven touches earth, may we bask in that great Love; may we treasure and ponder it in our hearts.

[Silence]

Amen.