

Heralds of Good News
Luke 2:8 – 20
Christmas Eve Sunday 2023

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost over! The aftermath of Christmas can be dreary! Listless January and cold February will soon be upon us!

I thought of trying to lift your spirits by singing the first verse of ‘Hark, the Herald Angels Sing’ for you but my wife said – ‘NO, NO!’ so I have ask Bill Johnston to sing the first verse of ‘Hark, the Herald Angels Sing’. I am sure his rendition will lift your spirits!

Thank you Bill and the congregation says – AMEN.

I am a herald of Good News - Are you one too?

Do you know Jesus was not a politician? He was not a politician because he never referred to his astonishing birth story. Can you imagine what a modern day politician would do with a birth story like Jesus - A modern politician would say -

*‘My fellow Americans, I was born in a stable and my father was so poor that he could not afford basic medical care for his family. I know what poverty feels like and if elected’ or

*My fellow Americans, I had to be born in a stable because the government forced my parents to travel to Bethlehem to pay taxes. I know what it feels like to live under an unreasonable tax burden, and if elected’ or

*My fellow Americans, I was born to a lowly carpenter who died when I was little. My father was a good man but he struggled to make ends meet. I know what it is to want for something and not get them, and if elected’

There is another reason why I am convinced Jesus was not a politician is because he never made a big deal about the meaning of his name.

In today's politics, a politician would have had a slogan - 'Vote for Jesus - Our Savior' and this would be plastered in big red, white, & blue letters on posters all over town.

Jesus never exploited his life story to coerce people into supporting him. Jesus never exploited his life story to cajole people into believing in him. He simply told his truth, worked his mighty works, demonstrated his love, and invited people to freely follow him.

I am freely following him. I am a herald of good news. Are you?

The shepherds in the field were surprised by the angels visiting them in the field so the angels first tell the shepherds to not be afraid. Then the angels tells them about the good news of great joy. A child is born in the city of David, a Savior is born!

The angel then tell the shepherds how they will find this child and a chorus of angels break out singing – 'Glory to God in the highest heavens, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

The angels were heralds of good news, how about you?

Later in our scripture text, the shepherds also become heralds of good news when they return to the fields glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

The shepherds were heralds of good news, how about you?

What wonderful news I have to share. Have you shared about a babe in a manger?

What a privilege we have to continue with his mighty works. What wonderful opportunity we have to evangelize about him today. Will you join with me?

Will you share Jesus' wonderful truth, works, and love and invite others to freely follow him? Will you?

Will you become a herald of good news?

Will you promise me that you will venture into 2024 to tell the stories of Jesus? Will you commit yourself to become a herald of good news?

Let us pray:

Father, thank you for the hope that we have in Jesus. Thank you for this season of Advent and most especially for tomorrow – Christmas!

May we always lift our eyes up to you!

Oh God, thank you for the privilege of sharing the good news of our mighty Savior with the people of our lives. Help each of us to trust in the power of Christ's deeds and love to draw all people to him.

May each person and family here, have a wonderful Christmas. May we remember the true meaning of Christmas. May we remember the reason for the season! AMEN.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!