

12/24/2017

“Angels of Christmas”

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Christmas Eve Service

Luke 2:10, 11, 15 . . . ¹⁰ *The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.* ¹¹ *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

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 told us about.”*

† **Angels are messengers and agents of God, referred to in the bible from the very first book of Genesis.**

They are part of the Heavenly Host, which surround the throne of God.

† **Though some had rebelled against God and had fallen long ago, the angels of Christmas, like Gabriel, declared praises and glory to God, not themselves.**

And the angels of Christmas, like Gabriel and others, appeared to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, speaking words of peace, goodwill, and God’s favor. They told of the coming of Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born to Mary, in Bethlehem.

And though their appearance at first startled their hearers, as they mostly likely would any one of us, the truth of God’s love and grace gave them reason to rejoice. Indeed, we still sing “Joy to the world, the Lord has come!”

As I was changing the sign out front last Thursday to display our Christmas Season service times, I thought a bit more about the words that had been displayed for several weeks now, I believe. They were placed there by our usual “sign-keeper”, Julie. They read, **“Life does not have to be perfect for it to be wonderful.”** How true. How true indeed.

Perhaps it was because I was thinking of Christmas that I was reminded of one of my favorite movies of this season, **“It’s A Wonderful Life.”** (I know, I’m probably dating myself. :) In it, George Bailey, portrayed by James Stewart, is down and out about a crises that is thrust upon him by an influential scoundrel of the town. As George sees no way out of his situation, he tries to take his own life. As many of you know, he is saved by angel named Clarence, who has not yet “earned his wings” Well, although the movie script uses quite a bit of imagination, it has a marvelous and heartwarming story to tell. And one of the lessons from it is that **“Life does not have to be perfect for it to be wonderful.”**

† **We can be thankful and glad for who and what we have, and all we mean and can do for others in our day to day lives.** We can let others know that too, and never take one another for granted.

Each life – each living soul – matters to God. That is one thing the angels of Christmas came to proclaim. That is why Jesus came to earth so long ago. That is why the angels still proclaim praises to his name. And that is why we have come to worship here tonight, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

May our hearts feel the Love of Jesus tonight! And may they be filled with peace, hope, joy, and love this Christmas!