**Reflections on the text for November 29, 2020; Luke 2:1-20**

This reading is very familiar and therefore all the more reason to slow down and dig a little deeper into what and why Luke includes these details.

Who was Augustus Caesar? Who was Quirinius? Why would Luke and include these details?

The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was about 70 miles. Mary was with child. It could not have been an easy trip. Why it is important to know Joseph was of the house of David?

Why do you think the author told us there was no room at the end? What is a manger? Why include that information?

Why would the shepherds live in the fields? What does it mean to keep watch? What was the social status of shepherds during the time of Jesus?

The text mentions angels announcing the birth of Jesus. Do you believe in angels? What do you believe about them?

What is the “good news” announced by the angels? What is a savior? Has God ever given you a “sign“? If so what was it about? What happened?

Note the shepherds heard, saw, hurried, saw more..

Mary‘s response was to treasure and ponder; the shepherd‘s response was to glorify and praise God. How do you respond? How important is this news to you?

Matthew is the only other gospel that mentions the birth of Jesus, but he focuses on the stories of the magi and the escape to Egypt as well as the activities of Herod. What impression does Luke’s description of the events surrounding Jesus birth leave you with? How does that inform your understanding of Jesus today?

Is there any part of Luke’s telling of the circumstances around the birth of Jesus that has a special meaning for you? That is, what is the most important part of Luke’s story of Jesus birth for you?