

Advent: The Coming of Our Savior // PEACE

If an angel of the Lord showed up right now, BOOM, and spoke, what would you want them to say? This bonafide מַלְאָךְ *mal'ak*, an ἄγγελος *ággelos*, is a messenger, an ambassador for God. I, personally, hope they start out by saying, “Fear not! Don’t be afraid!” Why? An angel of the Lord is right in front of me! But, I hope, next, they would proclaim, “Behold! Look! Be sure to see! Don’t miss this!”

In fact, in our series, “Advent: The Coming of Our Savior”, this is exactly what we see. In Luke 1:19 (ESV), starting with Zechariah, Gabriel says, “I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.” Of course, this good news was his son, John, who was to be born of Elizabeth, would go on to make ready God’s people and prepare the way for Jesus!

It continues with Joseph and Mary. An angel of the Lord appears to both, separately, in their dreams. The message for them from Matthew 1 and Luke 1 was similar: “Mary will bear a son, conceived from the Holy Spirit... He will be called Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins... He will be called Immanuel, God with us... He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High.”

It continues with the shepherds. In Luke 2:10-12 (ESV) an angel of the Lord says, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." All of Advent, hope, love, joy, in one angelic message from God!

But, don't miss, in Luke 2:14 (ESV), when suddenly there was with the angel and the shepherds a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" This message is the final candle of Advent, the angel or PEACE candle. It is a message from God to us in Christ. May we all find this PEACE this DAY!

Let's pray! Lord, in Philippians 4:7 (ESV), Paul says, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Lord, this Day, we thank You for Jesus Christ. He's our Savior. He's our Immanuel, God with us. He's the Word who became flesh and dwelled among us. He's our good news of great joy. He's our Prince of Peace and Lord of Lords.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

“1In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14‘Glory to

God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!' 15When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." - Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message Series

Advent - The Coming of Our Savior

Message Topic

Peace

Message Points

NOTES:

Memory Verse

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” - Luke 2:14 (ESV)

Small Group Questions

- How would you define the word, “peace”? What does it look like? Where do you see it in the world? Where is it missing in the world?
- Read Luke 2:14. Of all the things “a multitude of the heavenly host” of angels could praise God and say, why did they choose these words?
- Read Philippians 4:7. What does this verse mean? How does a personal relationship with Jesus, the Prince of Peace, bring you peace?
- Peace often alludes people. They look for it in wrong places. Who do you know that needs Jesus this Christmas? How will share Him?

YouVersion

None

Benediction

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” - Romans 15:13 (ESV)

Children's Message

Boys and girls, this morning, we continue the season of Advent. Does anyone remember what that word, Advent, means? *Take answers.* The word "Advent" means "Coming" or "Arrival". During Advent, we look forward to the coming or arrival of Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior.

Over here, I have an Advent wreath. Each week, we have lit a candle. Week one, we lit the first purple candle, the "Hope" and/or "Prophecy" candle. Week two, we lit the second purple candle, the "Love" and/or "Bethlehem" candle. Week three, we lit this third pink candle, the "Joy" or "Shepherds" candle. Does anyone know what this fourth purple candle is called? *Take answers.*

This fourth Sunday of Advent, the candle lit is the "Angel" Candle. We light it in remembrance of the PEACE we get from God in Jesus Christ at Christmas. Ok. Who wants to help me light it! *Have one of them help light.*

Let's pray. Lord, Thank you for Advent/Christmas. Thank you for the arrival of Jesus. Help us ALL to look with anticipation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus.