

Joy of Every Longing Heart—Divine Disruptions
December 19th and 22nd, 2019
Scripture: Luke 2.8-15

Luke 2.8-15 (RSV)

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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 men with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When 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.”

Read and Discuss

Introduction

In the fourth week of Advent (the season of anticipation leading to Christmas) Pastor Gary Henderson shared a message about the divine disruptions in the Christmas story. These disruptions the still occur today are often a prelude to joy. Disruptions can set us up to see God’s next big thing.

Engage the Scripture

- Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, Has the arrival of a child (son, daughter, sibling, niece, nephew, etc) ever caused disruptions in your life? What kinds of disruptions does a new baby cause? What other conditions caused a disruption for the characters in the Christmas story?
- Read Luke 2.8-15. Pastor Gary shared that the word for ‘angel’ can also be translated as “messenger”. Who are the angel/messengers in your life? Who are the ones who have shown up at the right time with the right word to move you along in God’s story?
- Pastor Gary shared that the “Glory” sung by the heavenly host has been reverberating throughout Christian witness ever since. In what way is our worship connected to the worship displayed on Christmas night?

Pray

Pray through this verse of the hymn from Charles Wesley:

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*