



## Week Four – Do You Hear What I Hear?: “O Come All Ye Faithful”

### CONNECT

- What is the best musical or concert you have ever seen or attend?

### WORD

#### **Luke 2:8-16**

*8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is [e]Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a [f]manger.” 13 And suddenly there appeared 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 [g]with whom He is pleased.” 15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.*

*1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while [a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 and everyone went to their own town to register.*

*4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

### THOUGHT

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" draws us into the Christmas story in [Luke 2:8-16](#). In this beloved passage, angels appear to shepherds, glorifying God because of the birth of the Savior, the Messiah, who lies in a manger in Bethlehem. After the angels leave, the shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem in order to find the Christ child. They may very well have said to each other things like, "Come, let's go to Bethlehem. Let's come and behold the King of Angels." But, now, our beloved Christmas hymn invites all of God's faithful to come, including you and me. Of course, we cannot literally visit Jesus in the manger. Even if we were to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the place where Christian tradition believes Jesus

was born, we wouldn't find a babe lying in a manger. But, we can come to Bethlehem in a sense. We can come in our imaginations as we allow the Christmas story to inspire us. We can come as we reflect on the miracle of Jesus, "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing." And we can come in worship, adoring Christ, once born in a manger, once living on earth as a sign of God's kingdom, once dying on a cross for our salvation, once raised from the dead on Easter, now reigning in heaven, welcoming us into his presence, ready to come again and complete his work of establishing God's kingdom.

## DISCUSSION

**1. What effect did the angelic visit have on the shepherds?**

- a. They wondered if they had been dreaming.
  - b. They saw God in a new way.
  - c. Their lives were changed forever.
  - d. It was soon business as usual.
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**2. What do you think the shepherds were most excited to tell others?**

- a. About hearing the angels sing
  - b. About seeing the newborn baby
  - c. God's plan for their salvation
  - d. That the angel's words were true
  - e. That the wait for Messiah
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**3. How would you explain this to your friends in 2016 if you were the shepherds?**

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**4. If this story took place in 2016 what might change? What would be the same?**

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**5. Can you recall the first time that you heard about the story of Christ coming into the world as a baby? Do you think the feelings you had upon hearing were the same as those living during the time of Jesus' birth?**

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Read the story of Jesus' birth. Spend time focusing on the moments after, seeking to know the significance in each person's response to Jesus' birth.
- Share the story of the birth of Jesus with someone this week that doesn't know Him.

## PRAYER

- Ask God to remind you of the moment that you heard about Jesus' coming into the world as a baby. Pray that your heart continue to be filled with the same wonder and adoration.
- Pray for those who have yet to hear, pray that they too would have a heart of wonder and adoration as they learn of the story of Jesus' birth.