



Sermon Series: The Messiah: God's Promise, God's Glory

Sermon Title: The Arrival

Date: 12/7/2025

The arrival of Jesus Christ is the arrival that changes everything. The incarnation is not simply a seasonal tradition—it is God's declaration of His rule, His mission, and His love. In Matthew and Luke, we see that Jesus' arrival calls His people to embrace obedience, receive His grace, and join His mission. This message reminds believers that Christmas is not nostalgia but commissioning: we are the messengers of Christ's arrival.

1. God Calls Ordinary People to Do Amazing Acts

Matthew 1:18–25 describes Jesus' arrival from Joseph's perspective. Joseph appears as a quiet, faithful, "just" man, known for integrity and a desire to honor God. When he learns that Mary is pregnant, his initial response is the honorable, common-sense solution: a quiet separation. Yet God interrupts Joseph's plan through a divine message delivered in a dream. The angel instructs him not to fear taking Mary as his wife because her child is conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Taking Mary as his wife invites misunderstanding, gossip, and personal sacrifice. Yet despite all of this, Joseph obeys. His life demonstrates that God works through ordinary people willing to embrace uncommon obedience. Christmas reminds believers that God's mission has always advanced through people like Joseph—quiet, everyday disciples who choose obedience over convenience and faithfulness over reputation.

Jesus' arrival breaks tradition by calling ordinary people to take extraordinary steps of trust. Joseph shows that the arrival of Jesus demands a response, and that response often includes courage, humility, and surrender.

2. God Chooses Unexpected People

Luke 2:8–14 shifts the scene to the fields near Bethlehem, where the announcement of Jesus’ birth is given to shepherds. First-century shepherds were socially insignificant and often overlooked. Yet God directs His glory and His message straight to them.

An angel appears, declaring “good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (**Luke 2:10**). The Savior, Christ the Lord, has been born. Suddenly a multitude of heavenly hosts joins in praise (**Luke 2:13–14**). The contrast is striking: the greatest announcement in history is delivered to the least likely audience.

This scene reveals the heart of God. He chooses the humble. He entrusts His message to those the world would never select. Jesus’ birth reveals a kingdom where the overlooked become the first recipients and carriers of God’s good news.

Believers today stand in this same tradition. God still uses unexpected people—ordinary men and women—to proclaim an extraordinary message.

3. God Sends Us Outward

The shepherds respond to the angelic announcement by seeking out the newborn Christ (**Luke 2:16**). They become the first earthly messengers of the gospel. They hear, they meet the Savior, and they go.

This becomes a pattern for every follower of Jesus. Faith leads to witness. Encounter leads to mission. The shepherds had limited knowledge, yet they shared boldly. Likewise, every believer—new or seasoned—is called to carry the message of Jesus into homes, workplaces, and relationships.

Jesus’ mission is stated clearly: “He will save his people from their sins” (**Matthew 1:21**) and “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (**Luke 19:10**). Christmas is not merely about preserving tradition but participating in this mission. The birth of Jesus marks the launch of God’s plan to save the world, and His people are invited to join that work.

The arrival of Jesus is not only an event we remember—it is a mission we carry. We are the messengers of His arrival.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What stands out to you about Joseph's obedience in Matthew 1, and what does it model for believers today?**
- 2. Why do you think God chose shepherds—not leaders or elites—to receive the first announcement of Jesus' birth?**
- 3. How does Jesus' arrival challenge human expectations about who God uses?**
- 4. In what ways are believers today like the shepherds—called to hear, encounter, and share?**
- 5. What is one intentional step you can take this Christmas to share the arrival of Jesus with someone else?**