



Christmas

GRACE CHAPEL
WILSONVILLE
OREGON

Eve Services

READING ONE

Luke 1:26-38 NLT

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said,

"Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Confused and disturbed,
Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Mary asked the angel,
"But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

The angel replied,

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail.”

Mary responded,
*"I am the Lord's servant. May everything you
have said about me come true."*

And then the angel left her.

Matthew 1:18-25 NLT

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

“Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

*"Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"*

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born.

And Joseph named him Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7 NLT

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

Christmas Eve

READING TWO

Lucas 2:8-20 NLT

Esa noche había unos pastores en los campos cercanos, que estaban cuidando sus rebaños de ovejas. De repente, apareció entre ellos un ángel del Señor, y el resplandor de la gloria del Señor los rodeó. Los pastores estaban aterrados, pero el ángel los tranquilizó.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them.

«No tengan miedo—dijo—. Les traigo buenas noticias que darán gran alegría a toda la gente. ¡El Salvador—sí, el Mesías, el Señor—ha nacido hoy en Belén, la ciudad de David! Y lo reconocerán por la siguiente señal: encontrarán a un niño envuelto en tiras de tela, acostado en un pesebre».

“Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

De pronto, se unió a ese ángel una inmensa multitud—los ejércitos celestiales—que alababan a Dios y decían:

**«Gloria a Dios en el cielo más alto
y paz en la tierra para aquellos en quienes Dios se complace».**

*Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others
– the armies of heaven – praising God and saying,*

*“Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”*

Cuando los ángeles regresaron al cielo, los pastores se dijeron unos a otros: «¡Vayamos a Belén! Veamos esto que ha sucedido y que el Señor nos anunció».

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**Fueron de prisa a la aldea y encontraron a María y a José.
Y allí estaba el niño, acostado en el pesebre. Después de
verlo, los pastores contaron a todos lo que había sucedido
y lo que el ángel les había dicho acerca del niño.**

*They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph.
And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing
him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and
what the angel had said to them about this child.*

Todos los que escucharon el relato de los pastores quedaron asombrados, pero María guardaba todas estas cosas en el corazón y pensaba en ellas con frecuencia.

All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.

Los pastores regresaron a sus rebaños, glorificando y alabando a Dios por lo que habían visto y oído. Todo sucedió tal como el ángel les había dicho.

The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Matthew 2:1-11 NLT

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked,

“Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

*‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”*

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them,

“Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Christmas Eve





NABISCO

BARNUM'S ANIMALS

CRACKERS



LION



POLAR BEAR



GORILLA



ELEPHANT

GOOD SOURCE OF CALCIUM

NET WT
2.125 OZ
(60g)

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:9-11

Receivers

“I experience God on His terms.”

Rejectors

“I experience God on my terms.”

**What would the final sentence
of your autobiography say?**

Would it be inspirational?

Would it be tragic?

Would it be unfinished?



What is the ache
of your life right now?

**Christmas was not meant to
be a holiday but a lifestyle.**

**This Good News called the
gospel has three promises:**

- 1. God is with us**
- 2. God is for us**
- 3. God is in us**



God Is With Us

The Promise of His Presence

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "**God with us**").

Matthew 1:22-23

Malaise of Immanence

“Taylor also notes that the age of modern reform, with all its accomplishments and benefits, tends to the malaises of disenchantment. It delivers freedom and power, but we find ourselves lacking horizons of meaning.”

— R.J. Snell

“The malaises contribute to the suffocation felt by many, a sense of pointlessness. Malaise can take away hope and meaning and direction, flattening everything into a kind of very comfortable despair.”

— R.J. Snell



God Is for Us

The Promise of His Provision

But God demonstrates his own love **for us** in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died **for us.**

Romans 5:8

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these?
If God is **for us**, who can ever be against us?

Romans 8:31 NLT

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line **for us**, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do **for us**?

Romans 8:31-32 MSG



God Is in Us

(The Promise of His Power)

And God has given us his Spirit as proof
that we live in him and he in us.

1 John 4:13 NLT

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21 NLT

...for everyone born of God overcomes the world.
This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

1 John 5:4

He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5



How does a promise
become a prescription?



Faith turns a promise
into a prescription.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Luke 2:14





Peace replaces
Rest-less with Rest-full.



When favor rests, peace resides.



Jesus came to both
Eliminate and Illuminate.



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