



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Advent: The Angel's Song**

**Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scripture: Luke 2:1-14**

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

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 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. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

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

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

*Luke 2: 1-14 (NIV)*

### **Sermon Outline:**

- In the story of the Angel's Song, Luke talks about Mary and Joseph not being able to find a place to stay. Luke referred to "in those days" and by this we know that the story of the Messiah is rooted in history. Christianity is rooted in history and did indeed happen. God comes to the world through Mary, as she gives birth to Jesus and God comes in human form as a baby. The scene goes from the Messiah's birth to the shepherds working in the field. God comes in the form of an angel to give the shepherds a message. It is a cosmic song – the good news is good news for the entire earth, the cosmos.
- Good news is to be shared and the two phrases we are to focus on are Glory to God and Peace to Us. When you get the first phrase right, you will get the second phrase right also.  
-Glory to God. We often sing Glory to God, but we live "glory to me". We cannot experience peace unless we get the first part of the phrase right. When we seek validation from others instead of Christ, we substitute our own glory over His. We live in a culture where we have a debilitating preconception with ourselves -- our constant need for approval ends up crushing us.  
-Peace to Us. When God sends peace, it can coexist even in a world/time of pain. This is a declaration that there will be a day when God's peace will reign. God's peace will have the last word in your life. If you want peace, it only comes from the Messiah. The only people who can truly receive peace are those who say yes and receive Christ as Lord, and it will surpass all understanding.

- As we focus this series on songs, it's easy for us to sing out the songs correctly but easy for us to live them out wrong. God has a way of revealing himself to people whom the world overlooks, and in the ordinary of life. God sees us and comes to us. God does not require us to be successful, only that we be faithful.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Pastor Rich continues the series on Advent and discusses the song the Angel's sang when Christ was born, and two themes that mark our relationship with God.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, what joyous occasions were celebrated? What did that look like? Who was told and included?
3. In what ways may you subtly cast glory on yourself? How do you seek validation?
4. What would it look like in your life to shift glory upon yourself to Christ? What actions would need to be taken?
5. Where in your life do you need peace?