

December 27, 2020

Joyous Noise-Luke 2: 8-20

With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. (Luke 1:46-47)

Bible Lesson

Shepherds were quietly going about their night when suddenly an angel appeared to them. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people” (Luke 2:10, CEB). The Bible states that the shepherds were terrified. Yet, instead of running away in terror, they listened to the message and made the decision to go to Bethlehem to confirm that what the angel said was really true. Shepherds were the first to hear of Jesus’ birth. There is much speculation on why the angel announced the news to shepherds. Some think it was because shepherds were low on the societal rung, and God wanted it known that Jesus was for everyone. We may never know why the humble shepherds were the first to hear the news. We do know that the shepherds went to Bethlehem; found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus; and shared with them what the angels had said. Then the shepherds returned home and spread the news of Jesus’ birth. From the angels to the shepherds to the world, the good news of Jesus is for all people, not just the rich and powerful. Spreading the news brought joy to the shepherds and to all who heard it. Joy is meant to be shared, as joy is for all.

Today’s faith word is *Joy*: a feeling of gratitude and happiness.

Wonder together:

- What brought you joy this Christmas?
- Who makes you feel joy?
- How do you think the shepherds felt in the Bible story?

Activity

What do you think the sky looked like when the angels appeared to the shepherds?

Re-create what you think the sky looked like when the angels appeared to the shepherds using your craft and art supplies. This is a great way to use items from recycling.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for filling us with joy. Help us share our joy with the world. Amen.