

GROWING IN FAITH



Birth!

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favours!'

-Luke 2:1-20

GOING DEEPER

As we read today's scripture, it is fascinating to see Isaiah's words fulfilled. Probably in an even more wonderful fashion than he could have ever imagined.

What feelings do you have when you hear this passage?

Shepherds were viewed as some of the lowest of the low...

Why do you think God used them?

How can we relate to the shepherds?

Part of the joy of this passage is that the rumors that had been going on for so long, came to fruition.

When something you had hoped/dreamed would happen, happens.

How does that make you feel? Why?

Who do you want to tell?

In last week's scripture Mary was told exactly who Jesus was going to be, in today's scripture the shepherds confirmed it.

How does it make you feel when something you believed to be true, is confirmed in a spectacular way?

As we continue this journey in Advent ...

With the joy and excitement we receive, who do we share with?

What can you do to continue to build anticipation for this wonderful life in Christ?