

Intro

- In our Series "Jesus is Coming"
- 1st week= Be Ready
 - Jesus is Coming (For the 2nd time), get ready
- 2nd week=Turn
 - Repent and Turn
 - Over and over again
- 3rd week= See
 - Importance of Testimony
 - What Jesus is doing in our lives and community
- Last week= Dream
 - Awaken the Dream within us
 - Believe on the Dream of Jesus Christ, he is not just another dream, it is the dream that is reality
- Today= Jesus has Came "Peace"

Luke 2:1-20 1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- Christmas is here
 - Were we ready?
 - Were we prepared?
 - Did we prepare the way of the Lord? (John the Baptist)
 - Did we make his paths straight? (John the Baptist)
- Traditional story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2
 - Luke's narrative brings together different people from different places
 - Shepherds in a field
 - couple from out of town
 - innkeeper
 - I always feel sorry for the innkeeper
 - There is no way he knew who Mary was about to give birth to
 - Angel of the Lord
 - Terrifying heavenly host
 - These characters really have no connection to each other, other than the birth of Jesus
 - Lives intersect at this crucial moment in human history
 - Common witness allows unity despite their very different circumstances of life
 - They feel this momentary sense of peace, even if it is just a moment
 - Get a glimpse of the future for a moment
 - In the child's face they can see the promise of God's Kingdom
- We live in a time of confusion, fear, doubt (Mentioned it a couple of weeks ago)
 - World- Terrorism, Isis, etc.
 - US- Not the anti-christ or savior
 - Church- UMC issues diversity, conservative, moderate, progressive
 - Community- Neighbors dying, children with cancer (Chance Berry), hungry, needy, broken homes

- Personal- health concerns, relationships, financial worries
- Right in the middle of all this confusion, fear and doubt a sign of peace is born into the world!
- Birth of Jesus according to Luke
 - Hectic situation
 - Different characters mentioned before
 - Different scenes going on
 - Census with the young couple, had to travel great distance across rugged terrain (desert, mountains), the week their baby was due, walking/on a donkey?
 - Distance from Nazereth to Bethlehem is 70 miles the way the crow flies
 - 2 routes to get there and both are about 92 miles long
 - Even on Donkey/Camel took them at least 4 days, probably more like 5-6-7 days
 - Crazy travel, especially for a pregnant woman
 - No vacancy at the only inn in Bethlehem
 - Even in Jefferson/Braselton we have more than one inn?
 - Already talked about the innkeeper
 - Common for people to stay overnight in barns and such
 - Remember Granny Gilstrap telling me about that
 - Shepherds terrified by the angel of the Lord appearing and speaking out of the night sky;
 - Talked about how dangerous it is to be a shepherd last week
 - Get in groups after feeding and watering to have company and help distribute responsibilities
 - Heavenly host praising God
 - Multitude
 - A sight to be seen
 - Child/Jesus being born in a stable
 - Childbirth in a barn
 - Mary and Joseph probably had seen it before, but it is different when you are the one going through it
 - Jesus on a bed of hay in a manger (feeding trough, manger sounds so much better), surrounded by his parents, animals, and curious and overwhelmed shepherds.
 - Always wonder what is going through a baby's mind
 - Can't imagine what Jesus was thinking on his birthday
 - All this stuff going on, it's Crazy with a capital C
 - Then again childbirth is always hectic
 - Savanna, born on Monica's birthday, it was the easiest of the three, Moving to a King Size bed as soon as she got pregnant with McKinna
 - McKinna, rushing to the hospital at 6 am, almost not making it, almost passing out
 - Holden, been in the hospital for a couple of days, Monica was miserable (5 weeks early, kept calling him wimpy white boy)
 - Childbirth is messy, painful and hectic, it is not peaceful
 - But in the end you have this newborn baby wrapped in soft blanket laying in your arms and you kind of forget about all the pain, sacrifice and mess
 - There is a sense of peace after everything is said and done and all the complications are over and everything has settled down
 - After the Mess there is quiet and peace, joy, contentment and relief
 - This Holiday Season
 - Out of the craziness and frenzy that we and our world is in, comes a sign of peace
 - Jesus said in John 16: 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
 - The birth of Jesus, his existence, his life and teachings, his death and resurrection, his promise to come again:
 - This is the Gospel, Paul in I Corinthians 15 :3-5 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. It is a sign from God.
 - It is a promise that there is hope for the world.
 - Matthew in Matthew 12:17-21 17This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 18 "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. 19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the

streets; 20 a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; 21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

- Good News= On this day, in the city of David, a Savior was born. He is the Messiah, the Lord, the Prince of Peace.
- This Good news is not just for certain people in a certain place- It is for everyone!
 1. Struggling with a personal problem= Promise of Healing
 - Mathew 8:14-17 14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. 16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."
 2. For those who don't believe Jesus Christ is the son of God= glimpse of God's love for all God's children.
 - John 3: 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 3. For those who feel like the whole world is just chaos and confusion= Peace
 - 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,
 4. For those who live in darkness and fear= it casts light: the pledge that a new day, a new week, a new year, a new life, is coming for each and every one of us
 - 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
 5. For those who imagine that this world isn't worth saving= it is a word of hope.
 - Scripture
 - Psalms 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
 - Psalms 119:49 Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.
 - Psalms 119:81 My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.
 - Psalms 119:114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.
 - We learn in John 1 that Jesus is the Word of God
 - We hope in the Word which is Jesus
 6. And for those who on this day find themselves at odds with someone or something= it is a promise of reconciliation
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Closing

- Today= On this day, in the city of David, a Savior was born. He is the Messiah, the Lord, the Prince of Peace.
- He's here to give you healing
- He's here to show you God's love
- He's here give you peace
- He's here to cast light into the darkness
- He's here to give hope
- He's here to give reconciliation
- Today he is born for YOU!