



### **A story not all tied up in a big, red bow . . .**

- What changes from Advent to Christmas?
- We move from an attitude of “Things are gonna turn out alright” to “Things will be fine.”

*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.*

Luke 2:1–5 (NIV)

- The story that is only the beginning of our faith begins by justifying our \_\_\_\_\_.
- The site of fear is what reminds us why God reached down to earth in the first place.

*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.*

vv. 6–7

**The promise of Immanuel, “God with us,” that we remember throughout Advent, culminates in Christmas as we rejoice that “God is here.”**

### **Good News for All**

*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.”*

vv. 8–12

- Christmas is about making room for what was once considered \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Christmas story defies all of our assumptions.

*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.”*

vv. 13–14

- We can invite Jesus to dwell among us as our welcome guest, both in our home and in our \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sources consulted in today’s sermon:**

*Home Alone*, directed by John Hughes (1990)

*Jesus: Lord, Liar, Lunatic...Or Awesome?* by Tripp Fuller (2015)

*Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber (2015)