

# Advent Week Three

Day 20, Friday, December 17th

"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." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

Luke 2:15-18

In today's reading, the heavenly host returns to its heavenly abode, and the shepherds are left to decide what to do with the good news that has just been delivered in such a wildly improbable way. They could have laughed the whole thing off as a mass hallucination or been so struck with fear that they couldn't even stand, let alone walk into Bethlehem. But, they believed that God had spoken to them, and they resolved to see for themselves what they have heard.

And so they find the promised child lying in a manger, and while we are told little about their encounter with the new family, we are told that they immediately set out to spread the word concerning all they have seen and heard.

In that moment they take on the role of the angels, messengers of God declaring the birth of a Savior, just as it had been declared to them.

**REFLECT:** What have you seen and heard of Jesus that needs to be shared? How might you take on the role of the angels this Christmas? Who needs to hear this message of good news?

**PRAYER:** Like the shepherds who were first at the manger, may we hear the good news and excitedly seek it out. May we become messengers of God, declaring that the one who saves has come to be among us. May all who hear us be amazed, and become seekers and messengers too. Amen.