



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Innkeeper and Scandalous Hospitality

Speaker: AJ Sherrill – Lead Pastor at Saint Peter's Church

Scriptures: Luke 2 4-7

4 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. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 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.

Sermon Summary:

What is the significance of the Innkeeper in the Nativity story? What if you learned that the innkeeper doesn't exist the way we think in the Biblical text and that his inclusion is about something so much bigger? These insights will help open a deeper understanding of the meaning of Christmas. This Sunday, we celebrate the second week of the Advent season with a message from guest speaker and Lead Pastor at St Peter's Church, AJ Sherrill.

Sermon Questions:

1. What do you think or have you thought in the past that the season of Advent is all about? How has that impacted how you intentionally focus on this season?
2. What connections did Pastor AJ help you make about Advent, the Bible, and the Christmas story that you had not made before?
3. The Bread of Life was born in the town of Bethlehem, meaning House of Bread, and was placed in a feeding trough after his birth. How do you believe Jesus has come to meet the hunger in your own heart and the hunger of our desperate world? Share specific ways you see his provision and plan in your day to day life.
4. As Mary became a carrier of God's presence, like the ark of the covenant, we too are carriers of the Spirit of God within us. Pastor AJ reminded us that of all the places on earth you have become the location where the place of God's presence dwells. What are ways Mary teaches us to carry the presence of God into the world?
5. Spend time praying for greater awareness and intention in carrying the presence of God into our hungry and needy communities.