



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Advent Series: Glory and Peace

Speaker: Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor

Scriptures: Luke 2: 1-14

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

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.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Sermon Summary:

On this last Sunday in Advent, Pastor Rich will preach on the song the Angels sang when Christ was born. The lyrics to this song hold together two themes that are to mark our relationship with God.

Sermon Questions:

1. What is your favorite song to sing at karaoke or otherwise?
2. The angels sang a song with two main themes: Glory to God and peace to us, but we often get the lyrics wrong. We can mess up the words and live with a sense of glory to me and then experience no peace on earth. Pastor Rich shared signs that you might be centered around your own glory:
 - You need constant affirmation and adoration
 - You have a hard time celebrating others
 - You believe second place equals the first loser
 - Any amount of criticism crushes you
 - You need to be close to those in power always
 - You avoid appearing weak at all costs
 - ◆ Which of these signs is most relatable for you?

3. How does God's glory compare to the glory of the world? ("Glory is not the shiny stuff or the power the world values but in the self-giving love of our Savior who came in the form of a vulnerable baby. God forfeits glory so that we would find favor.)

4. To what degree have you been trying to keep up with the world's definition of significance and glory? To what degree is your life oriented around the glory of God? Take time to pray and ask for help to orient yourself around God's definition of glory.