



Luke 2:13-14

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.”**

This past Sunday, we talked about how God sent a messenger in the form of an angel to deliver the Good News of the birth of our Savior to shepherds that were watching their flocks nearby. It was a calm and peaceful night with the area lit by magnificent collaboration of stars. It was a night like any other night for them... until it wasn't. The angel's appearance signified a change not only for this moment in the lives of these shepherds, but for the entire world. We noted that the presence of the angel terrified them. And just when they were coming to grips with this angel that God had sent to them and what that angel had to say... the world explodes around them!

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."

The angels were unable to contain themselves. Let's take just a moment and look at a different time near the end of Jesus' earthly ministry in Luke 19:37-40.

37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

This moment, where the Angels of Glory appeared to the shepherds was magnified even beyond that. The heavens were filled with the light and presence of thousands of angels singing to and praising God in the ultimate worship service.

How totally overwhelming this must have been for these poor shepherds. It was one thing to be given this tremendously exciting message but then to experience the total release of joy as the angels of God announced the birth of the Christ Child and what this event meant for all people everywhere. They had a front row seat to this wondrous event. How could they do anything but feel the excitement and wonder of this event, the filling of the Holy Spirit in their lives, this joy that spilled out simply because they had no way or desire to contain it.

So, what did they do with it? Luke 2:15-20 tells us this:

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The essence of Love that is poured into us by God cannot be contained. This gift of the Christ child was never meant to be kept, but given away, over and over again. It was never meant to be contained. It is meant to be shared with everyone around us. Share the Breath of the Spirit. Share the Living Water. Share the Bread of Life. Share the Shelter of God's presence. Share how God provides rest for our spirits. Share the Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace and Love that God provides to us in abundance.

Take this light of Christmas, this glorious presence of God in our lives and share it continuously to this world in need of that light. God bless you all on this Holiest of nights as we celebrate along with the Angels of Christmas, the birth of Christ our Lord.

AMEN