

**Welcome to Plymouth First Baptist Church**  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
*December 24, 2021*

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

<b>Prelude</b>	<b>B.J. Lyle</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Pastor Paul</b>
<b>Lighting of the Advent Wreath</b>	<b>The Bradshaw Family</b>

***Tonight** we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath- the candles of **HOPE**, **PEACE**, **JOY** and **LOVE**. We also light the fifth candle which is the Christ Candle. As we do celebrate the end of Advent and the arrival of **Christ** and Christmas, let us remember how our savior came once as a lowly baby, that the world through him might be saved, and how he will one day return to rule and reign is all HIS glory.*

**Concerning the Christ we read:**

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. John 1:10-13

**Let us Pray:** Heavenly Father, as we read the story of Christ’s birth, announced by angels, and celebrated by shepherds. Remind us Father to make room in our lives every day for Jesus. That we would celebrate his birth every day. May our hearts be a place where He dwells in fullness and power. We pray that His life would be lived in us. Amen.

<b>Hymn # 249</b>	<i><b>O Come, All Ye Faithful</b></i> vv. 1,2,3
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<b>Scripture Reading</b>	<b>Luke 2: 1-7</b>	<b>Pastor Paul</b>
<b>Special Music</b>	<i>Lullaby</i>	<b>The Chandlers</b>
<b>Hymn # 262</b>	<i>Away in A Manger</i> vv. 1,2,3	
<b>Communion</b>		
<b>Christmas Message</b>	<b>“ Make Room”</b>	<b>Pastor Paul</b>
<b>Special Music</b>	<i>O Holy Night</i>	<b>Leroy Bland</b>
<b>Prayer</b>		<b>Pastor Paul</b>
<b>Candlelight Hymn</b>		<i>Silent Night</i>

**NOTES FROM THIS EVENING’S MESSAGE**

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**\*Please take your poinsettias home with you tonight, also don’t miss Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> here at First Baptist. We will have our regular schedule.**

**THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** Undoubtedly, we tend to put a heavy emphasis on the lowly circumstances of Jesus' birth when we retell the Christmas story each year. Certainly this is appropriate, for the Son of God humbled Himself profoundly when He "emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" ([Phil. 2:5–8](#)). Christ's entire life was marked by humiliation, as He moved from a manger in Bethlehem to life as a common person in Nazareth to His ignoble death on the cross. Yet this humiliation led finally to glory. God the Father, because Jesus had been faithful to His mission, exalted Jesus and "bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (vv. 9–11).

Our Savior's glory was veiled by human flesh in His incarnation, and it remained hidden throughout much of His ministry. Yet there were points in our Savior's life when His glory shone temporarily through the veil. The best example of this is the transfiguration, the moment when Peter, James, and John were granted a vision of the Lord's glory as it shone through the flesh of the Savior ([Matt. 17:1–13](#)). Furthermore, this glory also shone brightly at times when the people might not have been expecting it. In the midst of the humbling conditions of our Lord's birth (poverty, being unable to find shelter in Bethlehem), there was a special manifestation of the Messiah's glory to people nearby. The account of this manifestation is found in today's passage.

While Mary and Joseph tended to their son, many shepherds were nearby tending their flocks ([Luke 2:8](#)). In those days, shepherds occupied the bottom rung of society's ladder, and the average citizen of Judea wanted little to do with these keepers of sheep. No one could have predicted that the first people to hear of Jesus outside of His parents would be a motley crew of shepherds. Nevertheless, an angel of the Lord appeared to these men, who got to watch the greatest sound-and-light show of all time ([Luke 2:8–9](#)). Understandably, the shepherds were afraid (v. 9), but in this case the glory of the Lord's presence, which they could otherwise not endure, was a good thing. This was the announcement of the Savior, the One who had come to redeem even society's outcasts. So, after the angels sang their praises to the Lord, the shepherds hastily traveled into Bethlehem to see the wonderful gift the Father had given to His people (vv. 15–16).  
[www.ligonir.org/learn/devotionals/glory-chrsitmas](http://www.ligonir.org/learn/devotionals/glory-chrsitmas)



Senior Pastor – Rev. Paul T. Harrington  
Choir Director – Scott Bradshaw  
Organist – B.J. Lyle  
Office Administrator- Danita Davis  
Deacon of the Month- Nevis Leary