



# ADVENT: THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

*Word of the Week*

## LUKE 2: 1-15

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register.

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

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

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

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' 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.'

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*God of light and life,  
let the anticipation of your birth fill  
us with overflowing joy.  
May our excitement and hope be a  
sign to the world that you are the  
real meaning of Christmas  
Amen.*

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

Suppose Jesus had been born in modern times. How might the story have gone?



Head over to the shared drive and watch a modern take on the birth of Jesus.

## TIME TO TALK...TO GOD

Again, like last week, I invite you to talk to God, rather than the person next to you. We talk to God like we would a friend, sharing our joys and sorrows and asking for help or advice.

We do this in a time of silence.

Because this is the 3rd week of Advent, a week when we focus on the theme of Joy. Talk to God about times you have been joyful. Are there places in your life you would like to be filled with joy? Ask God to help you with that!

## THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEED

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.  
If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.  
If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.  
If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.  
But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
So God sent us a Saviour.



## SOMETHING TO DO...

What does Christmas mean to you?

In a moment of quiet reflection complete the sentence:

"To me Christmas means/is..."

Feel free share these out loud as a class.



This week is the final week to bring in any donations for our Advent Appeal. I am sure you have some of these items at home that you don't use any more!

