

Media and Graphics Notes

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Sermon Starter Video? | Yes |
| Sermon Notes? | There are no graphics on the screen |
| Other Notes | <p>There will be a children's musical presentation as part of both worship services. The background music is included as part of the Proclaim presentation. There are four songs with short narration in between. When you move to each of the Music slides they will play through the accompaniment track once. Move to the next slide during the narration, then on to the next song. The order of songs is:</p> <p>Sing We All Noel Cradle Song We Bow Down Go! Tell It</p> |

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about shepherds part in the story of the birth of Jesus and as an example of those that are welcome in God's kingdom.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because there are outsiders today. We are called to welcome them, just like God welcomes the shepherds.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the third sermon in the Advent series.

What are the next action steps?

Use the card in the bulletin to invite someone to join you for worship.

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that Jesus birth brings a kingdom in which all are welcome, especially those on the outside.



Metadata

Topic(s)

1. Changing Lives
2. Making Disciples
3. Share
4. Sharing Christ

Sermon Books of the Bible

1. Luke

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, shepherd, outsider, insider, Christmas, Advent

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Luke 2:8-9 and 15-20, CEB

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. ...

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us."

They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Series Review

This season, we have the opportunity to find renewed hope and joy in the overwhelming love of God with us. Join us for Advent: A Season of Hope as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus once again, experience God's presence with us in Word and Spirit and anticipate Christ's return.

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Opening Story - Being an Outsider

Frontier Western Celebration

Shortly after we moved to town in 2012, we bought tickets to the Frontier Western Celebration. I didn't know much about the event other than the promotional material. We showed up and were making our way to a seat in the stands. We were sitting there, taking it all in, when I started to realize something that was different about me.

I was the only guy who was wearing shorts at the Frontier Western Celebration. Not only that, I was the only guy wearing open toed shoes at the rodeo. I was wearing flip-flops.

"I'm not from around here."

My wardrobe made it clear that I was new to Butler County. It was easy to pick me out as an outsider.

Transition

The shepherds were outsiders in Jesus' day and not just by what they were wearing.

God Welcomes the Outsider

Shepherds

Of course, we hear the story of the shepherds every year and it can be easy to romanticize them, but let's be realistic. In the first century, they were among the lowest rungs of the socio-economic ladder.

If it was a large herd, the shepherds probably did not own their sheep. They were hired hands and those that were working the night shift were the lowest of the low.

When God first told the good news of Jesus birth, it was to outsiders. God invites the lowest of the low to come and see the newborn king. This gives us a clue to what kind of king which Jesus would be.

Jesus Time with Outsiders

Jesus would spend most of his time with those that others said were out. He would make it clear that in the kingdom of God - all are welcome.

God welcomes the outsider.

Conclusion

Outsiders Today

You don't have to look very far to see that there are still outsiders today:

- Homeless
- Muslim
- Black
- Gay
- White
- Asian
- Jewish
- Christian
- Atheist
- Disabled
- Addicted

There are outsiders right here in El Dorado. It can be easy to make assumptions about who is in or who is out, who is welcome or unwelcome.

Good News

The good news is that Jesus birth brings a kingdom in which all are welcome, especially those on the outside.

There are no preconditions.

God welcomes the outsider.

Call to Action

This is true for each one of us.

God welcomes all people and offers us love and grace.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ in 11 days, I invite you to look for someone on the outside who you might offer a welcome.

Use the card in the bulletin to invite someone to join you for worship.

Invitation

God welcomed the shepherds, outsiders, on that very first Christmas.

God continues to welcome outsiders today – even you and me.

Will you pray with me?

Closing Prayer

[Text here]

Amen.