

December 17, 2023 – Pastor Bill



The angel went to her and said, Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
Luke 1:28-29

But the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.
Luke 1:30-33

He’s the One

How will this be, Mary asked the angel, since I am a virgin? The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
Luke 1:34-35

I am the Lord’s servant, Mary answered. May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.
Luke 1:38

Mary was in awe of the angel, but she experienced the wonder of Christmas when she listened and followed.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:20-25

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7

He has more grace for you.

He's the One.

Joseph was in awe of the angel, but he experienced the wonder of Christmas when he listened and followed.

We can follow and serve God anywhere and at anytime.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

1 Peter 1:10-12

How will you respond?

Discussion Questions

1. In your opinion, what is one of the most interesting and wonderful aspects/pieces of the Christmas story?
2. Do you think you might've ever had an encounter or experience with an angel? If so, why do you think so (& what was it like)?
3. Why is Christmas so significant (& relevant) to billions/billions of people (i.e. what is so special about "the One," Jesus)?

4. When it comes to your faith, what is your next step (so that you can/will experience the wonder of Christmas)?
5. Who is one person (this week) you can share the message of Jesus with and invite to Christmas Eve services at Fox River? Pray for that person now (and don't forget to actually talk to them and invite).