

# “Good news of great joy”: Luke 2:1-21

Third Sunday of Advent – “Telling” – December 12, 2021

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## Scripture reading – Luke 2.1-21

### Introduction

- This account of the shepherds illustrates for us what it looks like to experience God personally, then share our experience with others. You can discern three steps in the process:
  1. They hear the news. “Good news of great joy... for all the people.” Four names used of the child: v.11: Savior (*soter*), Anointed One (*christos, mashiach*), Lord (*kurios*), v. 21: Jesus (*Yeshua* from *Yehoshua*, “Yahweh is salvation”).
  2. They verify its authenticity. They go see the child for themselves.
  3. They share the good news with others (v.17).
- The theme for this third week of Advent is “Telling,” and the shepherds provide an example of how we can share our faith in Jesus with others.

### First things first...

- Talking to others about Jesus entails risk but also offers immense rewards.
- We all need to decide whether we will be governed by fear or faith.
- My intention is not to make anyone feel ashamed about how little we share our faith but remind of us of the privilege we have to bear witness to this God who has shown us such love, mercy and kindness.

### Some suggestions about sharing Christ with others

- Regularly pray for opportunities: ask God, keep eyes open, leave margins in schedule.

- Drop hints in your conversations: “grateful”, “blessed”, “church”, “Lord.”
- Tell a first-hand account of God’s goodness to you (your conversion story, an “encounter” story or an answer to prayer).
- Trust the Holy Spirit do his job.

## Three main points to make

1. **God** – He is beautiful, loving and good.
2. **Humanity** – We were made by God for relationship but became twisted by our selfishness.
3. **Restoration (or Salvation)** – Jesus came to restore God’s good creation, beginning with individual believers and extending to the entire cosmos.

## Take away

Ask the Lord this week for the opportunity to share Christ with someone who doesn’t yet know him. When God opens the door for you, share your story with them and try to work in the three points, above.