



**"The Shepherds" - December 21, 2025**

**Sermon by Pastor Rachel Keeler**

## **Group Leader Notes**

What do you do when you feel invisible—unnoticed, unimportant, or forgotten? In this message, we look at the shepherds in Luke 2 and discover that the first people to hear the “good news of great joy” were people living outside the city, on the margins, spending long, lonely nights under the stars. Through the shepherds’ story we explore: The bleak reality of our world and our own personal darkness. How God deliberately steps toward the unseen and overlooked. Why the angel’s message really is “good news that will cause great joy for all people.” Two simple ways the shepherds model a life of hope: They go and see for themselves. They spread the word even before they have everything figured out. Wherever you find yourself this Advent—hopeful, exhausted, anxious, or numb—this passage invites you to hear again: God sees you. God loves you. And in Christ, he has come to meet you right where you are.

**Main Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:8-20

## **Group Discussion**

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Feeling Seen:** Pastor Rachel emphasizes that God sees us, even when we feel invisible like the shepherds. Share a time when you felt unseen or overlooked? How does the idea that *God sees you* change the way you view that experience?
2. **Hope in Darkness:** Pastor Rachel acknowledges both global and personal darkness that can make hope feel impossible. What are some situations—either personal or in the world—that make it harder for you to hold on to hope right now? How does the shepherds’ encounter with God speak into those situations?
3. **“Who’s Your One?”** At the end, Pastor Rachel asked: *Who is the one person God is inviting you to see, notice, or invite?* Who might that be in your life, and what is one practical way you could help them feel seen and valued this week?

## **Let’s Pray**

<https://youtu.be/fRo31jRj9rU?si=MhFVyvsO7ANou0Ty>

