

**Welcome to**  
**Faith & First United Methodist Church**  
**Sermon Notes - December 20, 2020**  
**The First Noel**

**Scripture:** The Shepherds and the Angels Luke 2:8-19 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.

**Life Application Questions:**

- 1) The Shepherds were impacted by the news of the angels. What about Christmas impacts you? Why?
  
- 2) Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. What do you keep in your heart in regards to the birth of Jesus?

**Prayer:** "Dear Lord thank you for the miracle of Jesus. When darkness was in the world, you sent the light. Thank you for the peace. Thank you for the season that we live in because we know Jesus. We celebrate His birth. It is the most amazing gift ever given. We receive it today. As we pray in Jesus name Amen.

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

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