

Christmas Eve 1 pm Sermon – “Do Not Fear!”

I. Do Not Fear Christmas Readings

Luke 1:11-13

11 And there appeared to him [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luke 1:28-31

28 And he came to her [Mary] and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18 -21

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 2:8- 11

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

II. Why fear?

A. Power and Surprise of the “Supernatural”

B. The Angel is Holy, from God.... Or, “Am I in trouble?”

C. According to Our Sins, Fear is Correct. But the Message is Love and Favor

1 John 4:16-18

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

“Perfect” = completed, accomplished, finished

III. “Do Not Fear”

A. God’s Christmas Angels Bring Good News (“You are not in trouble! Help is here!”)

B. Angel Message to Joseph: “The Baby will save people from their _____”

C. God’s Grace and Power Reach Into Every Situation

i. Zechariah and Elizabeth

ii. Mary

III. Joseph

iv. All the people

V. Me