



Giving and Hoping

The Shepherds

The shepherds are presented by Luke as 'everymen' and allow us to witness events through the eyes of ordinary people. But despite their limited means they immediately recognised the importance of Jesus' birth and were the first to worship and glorify Him.



Welcome

- How do we respond to news of seemingly unlikely things?
- Do we tend to look for reasons to doubt or are we open to being pleasantly surprised?

Word:

Luke 2: 8-20

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.





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The Shepherds

Word (Cntd)

- In what way is the inclusion of the shepherds in the story significant?
- How should we look for signs of Christ in the world?
- Are we good at receiving gifts? Are we good at receiving God's gifts?
- Is it possible for the poor to be generous?



Worship

Reflect on how Luke presents the Shepherds, the poorest of the poor, as vital witnesses.

Reflect on the themes of the poor and marginalised, and spend time praying for those in your own community who fall into these groups

May we, like the shepherds, be watching and waiting for Christ.

Help us to be ready for the revelation of your word

Witness

Find some way to help the poor this week

Hymns:

In the Bleak Midwinter

In Christ There is no East or West