

## Scripture

*Luke 2:8-14 (RSV)*

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

## Reflection

Do not be afraid.

When the angel appeared to the shepherds, their reaction was one of fear. Fear causes one of four reactions: fight, flight, freeze or appease.

We fear sharing Christ because we are scared of what the world might say. Maybe we don't care enough to show the world the gift that we have received. A life of fear – where we fight, take flight, freeze or appease others at the expense of Christ – is a life without loving. Love requires risk, vulnerability and availability.

We are chosen, not frozen. Take courage and ask for God's strength. Are you ready?

Amen.



[cgyouth.org.au/  
christmas](https://cgyouth.org.au/christmas)



## Contemplate + Share

Pause a few minutes with God; pray, journal.

- Q.** Did something stand out to you? Why?
- Q.** What is God saying to you right now?
- Q.** What part of your identity did you uncover?
- Q.** Do you feel compelled to make an action?

## Prayer

Jesus, you call me out fear and darkness. You call me to courage and truth. In moments of fear, console me. Give me strength to be your witness to the people in my life.

Jesus, you call us out of our fear:

*Lord have mercy*

Jesus, you chose us to follow you:

*Christ have mercy*

Jesus, to you belongs all glory:

*Lord have mercy*