

## Scripture

*Luke 2:15-20 (RSV)*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## 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.



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## 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, draw me into your presence.  
Reveal your glory to me and lead me to  
ponder your love.  
You are good and worthy of worship and  
praise.

Jesus, you call us to ponder:

*Lord have mercy*

Jesus, you invite us into your presence:

*Christ have mercy*

Jesus, you require our surrender:

*Lord have mercy*