



## CAPTURING THE FULLNESS OF CHRISTMAS

Luke 1 & 2 (ESV)

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Jon Field, Lead Pastor

### MESSAGE NOTES

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. – Isaiah 9:2 (ESV)*

*Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. – Luke 1:57 (ESV)*

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ...And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. – Luke 2:1 – 7 (ESV)*

*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 Baby lying in a manger. – Luke 2:15 – 16 (ESV)*

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" – Luke 2:14 (ESV)*

*...to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." – Luke 1:77 – 79(ESV)*

*And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. – Luke 2:21 (ESV)*

#### **Invitations to Capture the Fullness of Christ:**

- **TRUST**

*"...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 Baby lying in a manger. – Luke 2:15 – 16 (ESV)*

- **FOLLOW**

*And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. – Luke 1:59 – 64 (ESV)*



- **TREASURE**

*Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him. – Luke 1:66 (NIV)*

*But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. – Luke 2:19 (ESV)*

- **TELL**

*All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. – Luke 1:65 (NIV)*

*And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. – Luke 2:20 (ESV)*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Discussion Starter: What is your favorite ornament and why?
- How does a Christmas tree point to the meaning of Christmas?
- Which part of the events leading up to the birth of Christ stand out mostly to you and why?
- Read Luke 2:20. Take some time to praise God for the birth of Christ and who He is. Go around the room and share a characteristic of Christ that you can give Him glory for.
- What is robbing your joy this Christmas and how might God be leading you to treasure Him in this season, in a deeper way?
- Where is it challenging to trust God in your life right now? How do the events of the birth of Christ invite us to trust and follow Christ?
- Read Luke 2:20. How can we be more like the shepherds this Christmas?
- When it comes to sharing our faith or inviting someone to church, it is so easy to assume a "red light" instead of a "green light" before we even open our mouths. Who is someone God is nudging you to invite to one of our Christmas Eve services? Take some time to pray for them and then invite them.