**CAROLS TELL THE STORY SERIES**

**“Silent Night”**

**December 9, 2012**

**Pastor Kevin Snyder**

**Luke 2:1-14**

**A brief history of the Carol**

**Silent Night Lyrics:**

**1st Verse:**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

**All is calm, all is bright,**

**'Round yon virgin Mother and Child.**

**Holy infant so tender and mild,**

**Sleep in heavenly peace!**

**Sleep in heavenly peace!**

**2nd Verse:**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

**Son of God, love's pure light.**

**Radiant beams from Thy holy face,**

**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!**

**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!**

**3rd Verse:**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

**Brought salvation to the world**

**From the heaven's golden heights,**

**And observes the fullness of Grace,**

**Jesus in human form!**

**Jesus in human form!**

**4th Verse:**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

**Where upon this**

**day all power**

**And as brother lovingly embrace**

**Jesus, the people of the world!**

**Jesus, the people of the world!**

**5th Verse:**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

**Long ago, planned for us,**

**When Lord freed from wrath**

**In the Fathers' ancient times**

**All world was pardoned by him!**

**All world was pardoned by him!**

**6th Verse:**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

**Shepherds quake at the sight.**

**Glories stream from heaven afar,**

**Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia",**

**Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

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1. **This Song causes us to pause, in the midst of a chaotic and hurried culture.**

**Luke 2:1-14**

**At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.**

**And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.**

**That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”**

**Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”**

**2. God is saying, “Don’t be afraid”, in the midst of the chaos.**

**To Mary: Luke1:30 “do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God”**

**To Joseph: Matt. 1:20 “do not be afraid, to take Mary as your wife”**

**To the Shepherds: Luke 2:10 “do not be afraid. I bring good tidings of great joy”**

**“To be anxious is to be human. The question is what we do with our anxieties. The decision is between hanging on to them or handing them over.” Richard j. Neuhaus**

**When we are shocked, scared, things aren’t going our way, chaos is rising its head or assume the worst – God says “Don’t be afraid.”**

**3. God will meet us in the midst of our mess. Silent Night? Really?**

**4. Peace is made through Jesus.**

**Verse 14. God’s favor is not just on Mary Luke 1:30, but seems that God is saying it is on all humanity. He loves you, and he wants the war to end.**

**Colossians 1:19-22 For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.**

**Slowly, and not without difficulty, we learn to prefer God’s will to our own; we learn to want God’s will to be done, knowing that he knows us and loves us immeasurably better than we know and love ourselves.**

**Prayer:**

**Forgive us, Heavenly Father, for living as though you do not know and do not care, as though you are not our loving Father. As you did with Mary, who first received the good news of “Emmanuel, God with us,” and handed over her troubled heart to you, so also give us such faith that the constant theme of our lives may be your “Peace”. This we trustingly ask in the name of the ever present Lord and Savoir that came to make peace, Jesus Christ. Amen. Let it be.**