

## *The Eternal Youth of the World*

Luke 2:1-20

*The Great Reversal*

## *Advent as...*

- Reversal – Luke 1:39-56
- Relinquishment – Luke 2:29-32
- Redemption – Galatians 4:4-9
- Renewal – Luke 2:1-20

Let us also step forth on the adventurous journey of the heart to God! Let us forget what lies behind us. The whole future lies open to us. Every possibility of life is still open, because we can still find God, still find more.

Nothingness is over and done with for him who runs to meet God, the God whose smallest reality is greater than our boldest illusion, the God who is eternal youth and in whose country there dwells no resignation.

Karl Rahner

## *Jesus' Birth*

(Luke 2:1-7)

## *Travel to Bethlehem*

- The government making lists and charging taxes
- The shadow of the Roman eagle

## *A Terse Birth Notice*

- Jesus is born in a manger (v7b)
- No room in the inn

## *A Beginning in Poverty*

- The family of Jesus are poor, vulnerable – street people when away from their hometown
- Jesus in solidarity with the hurting of the world

## *Shepherds in the Fields*

(Luke 2:8-14)

## *The Shepherds*

- Among the poor & marginalized
- Ceremonially unclean
- A dangerous, hard life
- Considered loners & social misfits

## *At the Night Watch*

- A bleak, cold, dangerous time on the hillside
- Suddenly, an angel appears to them in glory
- The shepherds' response is one of fear (2x)

## *"Do Not Be Afraid"*

- The angel proclaims good news of great joy (v10)
- News not just for Israel but for 'all peoples'
- A message of renewal to a broken world

## *The Message*

- Three titles for the new born King:
  - i. Saviour
  - ii. Christ/Messiah
  - iii. Lord
- A sign is given – you will find a babe in a manger

## *A Celebration*

(Luke 2:12-14)

## *An Angel Choir*

- Praising God for the baby's birth – singing of God's glory and his peace/shalom given to humanity
- The choir is announcing the royal birth even as the Romans celebrated their royalty

## *The Messiah is Born*

- It is a declaration of a new age – an age of renewal & restoration

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

## *The Shepherds Go*

- The shepherds celebrate by going to worship the newborn king (v15-20)
- They give praise – becoming the first evangelists, telling others about the child
- The time of renewal begins to unfold

## *Reflecting on Jesus' Birth*

## *Solidarity*

- Jesus walks in solidarity with us amidst life's challenges
- His presence is for all peoples; His favour rests upon us; we do not walk alone
- 'Cast all your care on him because he cares for you' (1Peter 5:7)

## *Being Receptive*

- We must be receptive to God's presence in Jesus – to live with awareness rather than being distracted
- Be alert to the guidance of the Holy Spirit

## *A Marathon*

- The presence of Jesus does not mean an absence of obstacles – we face many challenges as we make our faith journey
- We are called to persevere amidst life's hurdles – the faith journey is a marathon

## *Nevertheless ...*

We live in hope and confidence in God  
 "So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure," (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)