

2018 Christmas Message



“ *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.*

LUKE 2:4-20

We are like shepherds awaiting a new moment. We watch, we work, we can be afraid...even when we long for new moments... of hope, of forgiveness, of justice. And the words that are spoken to us first in this Christmas story are: “Do not be afraid.”

We are afraid, even terrified, or overwhelmed at times. It's human to be afraid, but fear does have a direct and noticeable effect on us. When we are afraid we protect ourselves, our focus narrows... our willingness to see something new becomes undermined. Would we recognize that “the sign” of a miraculous moment was to be found in a baby, wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger?

Perhaps that is a key message within the Christmas story... prepare yourself to see this new moment, or you will not see it. What is the new moment this Christmas season brings to you... that is waiting to be seen by you... that is waiting to be seen by us?