

Joy is Closer Than You Think  
The Arrival  
December 21, 2025

- Theme: If you find yourself in the midst of unmet expectations, take heart, because God can change things SUDDENLY. - Luke 2:8-20
- Suddenly
  - I imagine Mary and Joseph FELT ALONE
  - LIFE can change suddenly:
    - ✓ PENTECOST - Acts 2:2 NIV
    - ✓ Saul on the ROAD to Damascus - Acts 9:3 NIV
    - ✓ ANGELIC announcement - Luke 2:13-14 NIV
- Shepherds
  - Were anonymous, OUTCASTS, and ceremonially unclean
  - The people who couldn't go to the TEMPLE were selected to witness the manger and be in the presence of the Messiah: GOD'S SON
- Joy
  - 1) It's a CHOICE - 2 Corinthians 7:4b, Colossians 1:24a, Hebrews 12:2
  - 2) The greatest enemy of joy isn't pain, it's DISTRACTION - Luke 2:11
    - ✓ Don't allow ONE DAY to rob you of today
    - ✓ Or it's your YESTERDAYS?
  - 3) Go find the joy of JESUS
    - ✓ We don't have to get CLEAN FIRST, just go to Jesus