

## The Shepherds and the Angels Luke 2:8–21

Find a quiet place, alone and apart from distractions. Be comfortably alert, still, and at peace. Say the Lord's Prayer. Sing or cant the Jesus Prayer. Pray for family, friends, neighbors, and yourself. Slowly and carefully read the passage of Scripture.

1. Shepherds were not respected in that era. It was a rough life, dirty, even dangerous. Interestingly, the term “pastor” corresponds to or is the same as “shepherd.”
2. It is not known when in the year this event took place and could have been almost any time of the year. Early Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus on December 25, as it was a pagan holiday when even slaves and other despised ones were given freedom for a day.
3. It is not known why God the Father chose to reveal the birth of His Son to these people who would become the first evangelists, but He did. Very encouraging to us now.
4. The angel sent by God announces *good news* of great joy to the shepherds (this phrase is equivalent to Gospel), which will be for all people, not only the Jewish people. And it will all take place in the city of David, or Bethlehem.
5. Suddenly there appears a multitude of angels praising God and likely singing to the shepherds an incredible message.
6. The shepherds head to Bethlehem and are guided by some means to the place where Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus are. They become instant evangelists, spreading the word, while Mary, Luke tells us, is deep in thought and contemplation.
7. The shepherds return to their work protecting the sheep, all the while glorifying and praising God.
8. After eight days, Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem for the customary circumcision.

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

That which was promised by the prophets has come to pass -- the Messiah has come, born of the virgin as a sign to all who would see. Now we live in the light of Jesus while waiting His second advent.

### Reading of Hebrews 1:1-3

The Gloria Patri

**Christmas Hymn # 210** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

### Call to Worship:

*Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Elohenu Adonai echad*

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

Leader: 2022 — What shall the new year be for us?

People: IT WILL BE A TIME TO LIVE OUR LIVES IN SERVICE TO THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION.

Leader: And how will this be?

People: WE WILL WORSHIP, FAST, PRAY, TEACH, PREACH, LOVE OUR GOD, AND OUR NEIGHBOR.

Leader: Let us worship our Lord who calls us to this work.

### Morning Prayer — Prayers of the Church — Silent Prayer

#### Collect of the Day:

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU WONDERFULLY CREATED AND YET MORE WONDERFULLY RESTORED THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN NATURE. IN YOUR MERCY, LET US SHARE THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST WHO CAME TO SHARE OUR HUMANITY, AND WHO NOW LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

### We Confess our Faith — The Apostle's Creed

#### Scripture Reading:

Exodus 13:1–2; Leviticus 12:1–8; Deuteronomy 17:6; Luke 2:22–38; Galatians 4:1–7

**Memory Verse:** "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." Luke 2:34b

**Reflection:** Is this really part of the Christmas Story?

**Choruses:** "Jude's Doxology" and "The Lion of Judah"

**Offertory Theme:** Considering what we have received.

### Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

#### Ways to give when not present at service:

- 1) Go to the "Giving" page of our website: [milleravenuechurch.org/giving](http://milleravenuechurch.org/giving) and click on the "Donate" button, then follow the link.
- 2) Download the GivePlus+ app on your smartphone, then input Miller Avenue Church and follow the instructions.
- 3) Text a dollar amount (e.g., \$25) to 844-918-0231, then follow the link.
- 4) Mail a check to Miller Avenue Church, 285 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941

### The Doxology

**Announcements:** Birthdays, etc. A small reception after today's service.

**Bible Exposition**—Galatians 3:10–14 "The Righteous Shall Live by Faith" (Kent)

**Christmas Hymn:** # 139 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Sermon**—The Shepherds and the Angels — Luke 2:8–21 (Jim)

Notes:

### Aaronic Benediction (Numbers 6:24–26):

May the LORD bless you and keep you; may the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Shalom. Amen.

### Visit our church website: [www.milleravenuechurch.org](http://www.milleravenuechurch.org):

TV Shows, Worship Service Videos, Audio Sermons, Essays, Pastor's Blog, Community Blog, Newsletters, Bulletins, Photo Gallery, Giving Portal, and more!

Also visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/miller.avenue.church.mill.valley>

### Did you know?

Our "Miller Avenue Church" video-on-demand apps are now on:  
Your iPhone (at the App Store) or Android phone (at the Play Store) plus

Roku  
Apple TV  
Fire TV  
Google TV  
YouTube  
Cross.TV

Our Bible Study podcasts are also on:  
Apple podcasts, Amazon music/audible, Gaana, YouTube Music, iHeartRadio, Radio.com mobile app, and Spotify (look for "Miller Avenue Church")

Questions? ask [katie@milleravenuechurch.org](mailto:katie@milleravenuechurch.org)



**Ministry Associates**



- Kent Philpott** - Senior Pastor
- Vernon Philpott** - Associate Pastor
- Katie Philpott** - Associate Pastor
- Andrea Busta** - Audio-Visual
- Jim Daley** - Associate Pastor
- Doug Fairclough** - Associate Pastor
- Daniel Dover** – Preaching/Handyman
- John Konieczko** – Eastern Pastor

← “Adoration of the Shepherds” by Matthias Stom, c. 1635–1640

WEEKLY SCHEDULE POST-PANDEMIC	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
Morning Worship ( <i>in person and via Zoom</i> )	10:30am–12:00pm
Snacks and Collegium ( <i>next to last Sunday</i> )	12:20pm–1:20pm
Evening Worship ( <i>In person &amp; Zoomed starting January.</i> )	5:00pm–6:30pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
Bible Study via Zoom (currently on Kent’s book, <i>Christian Basics</i> )	6:00–7:00pm
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
Divorce Recovery Workshop ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	7:00pm–8:30pm
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
Donated Food Pickup front of chapel	11:00am–1:00pm

Miller Avenue Baptist Church  
 285 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941  
[www.milleravenuechurch.org](http://www.milleravenuechurch.org) (415) 388-5993

**Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God the Father almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,  
 our Lord. He was conceived by the power  
 of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin  
 Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead. On the third  
 day He rose again. He ascended into  
 heaven and is seated at the right hand  
 of the Father. He will come again  
 to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
 Christian Church, the communion  
 of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. **Amen**

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**Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 Hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread and  
 forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive  
 those who trespass against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
 and the glory forever. **Amen**

**Visitor Information Card**

*✂ Please tear off and fill out card. Place in offering basket or give to church staff member.*

Today’s Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Request**

Please pray for:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like someone to contact me to pray over more confidential matters.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to learn more about:**

- Christianity
- The Bible
- Baptism
- Receiving Counseling
- Deliverance Ministry
- Other

**I am interested in helping with:**

- Lunch
- Fix-up and Clean-up
- Donated Food Pick-up
- Worship music
- Worship Audio/Visual
- Television Crewing
- Pastoral Care Team
- Teaching
- Writing and Publishing
- Website Maintenance
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in attending:**

- Wed. Eve. Divorce Recovery
- Men's Group (TBD)
- Women's Bible Study (TBD)
- Zoom Class on Christian Basics

Other Comments:

**Upcoming Preaching Schedule  
Morning Service:**

- Jan. 2:** Sermon= Luke 2:22–38 (Kent)  
Expo= Galatians 3:15–20 (Daniel)
- Jan. 9:** Sermon= Luke 2:39–52 (Kent)  
Expo= Galatians 3:21–22 (Doug)
- Jan. 16:** Sermon= Luke 3:1–21 (Kent)  
Expo= Galatians 3:23–29 (Vern)

**Evening Service:**

In person and Zoomed worship services resume in January. Stayed tuned for details.

Filming schedule at CMCM has resumed most Thursday afternoons. Contact Kent or Katie if you are interested in learning how to crew on our productions.

**TV Program Viewing Schedule**  
*(View all on cable channel 26 or 99)*

*Why We Are Christians: Saturdays 1:30 and Fridays 7:30 PM*

*Bible Study: Fridays 8:00 PM*

*The Rabbi/Shaman/Wiccan and the Pastor: Sundays noon, Mondays 2:30 PM*

*For current daily broadcast schedule, check online at [cmcm.tv/watchcommunity](http://cmcm.tv/watchcommunity)*

<b>Giving:</b>	
Monthly Budget	\$3,500
Giving for December	\$4,864



# Miller Avenue Baptist Church

*An Evangelical\* and Reformed Congregation*

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,  
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

(Romans 1:16)

## Welcome!

December 26, 2021

\*We claim the original, non-political, Biblical meaning of "Gospel Proclamation"