

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Jim Thomas

December 11, 2022



SERMON NOTES

Four Canticle Portraits by Kim Thomas

"The four canticle portraits were originally commissioned in 2016 for the Getty Christmas Tour and used on stages as their backdrop. To communicate an image that would read in a large hall,



I simplified the portraits by representing them in linoleum block prints. The context required the artwork be narrow and tall, so with all of these givens, I tried to capture something for each of the four in their faces, as well as show the posture of their heart through their hands."

Angel's Song

"I've given the angel arms directed towards the earth, in recognition of the God-Son come to earth, and an open mouth joining in the chorus of the night — 'Glory to God!!'"

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased."

- Luke 2:14 (NASB)

Good News of Great Joy

The Songs of Advent

The 4 Songs of Advent

- The Song of Mary: Luke 1:26-55
- The Song of Zechariah: Luke 1:57-79
- The Song of the Angels: Luke 2:1-20
- The Song of Simeon: Luke 2:21-38

“There are some wells that don’t run dry. Some horizons that expand as you approach. Some stories that reach back forever, forward into eternity, down to the depths of mystery, and up to the heights of glory. Advent is one of those. It is inexhaustible.”

- John Piper

“‘Immanuel’ means the ideal has become real, the absolute has become a particular, and the invisible has become visible. The incarnation is the universe-sundering, history-altering, life-transforming, paradigm-shattering event of history.”

- Tim Keller, *Hidden Christmas*

The Song of the Angels

Luke 2:1-20

1. The Effusive Song of the Angels
2. The Exuberant Response of the Shepherds
3. The Inexhaustible Peace of God in Christ

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

- Luke 2:14 (NIV)

“The largest figures of the time — King Herod, Emperor Tiberius — grow smaller. The smaller figures — Mary, Joseph and some random shepherds — loom large. The smallest, most helpless figure blots out sun and moon and fills the whole sky with song: ‘Glory to God in the highest. Peace on Earth. Good will toward men.’”

- Michael Gerson, *The Defiant Hope of Christmas*

“He lies in a manger, but contains the world. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes, but vests us with immortality. He found no place in the inn, but makes for Himself a temple in the hearts of believers. In order that weakness might become strong, strength became weak.”

- Augustine

“We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that He should call us by name, our mouths wide open at His love, bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground.”

- Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out*

“In a culture that uses this season to get children to dream about how their lives would be made better by possessing a certain material thing, where Christmas has been reduced to a shopper’s nightmare and a retailer’s dream, it is vital to draw the wonder of our children away from the next great toy and toward the wonder of the coming of our great Lord and Savior, Jesus.”

- Paul David Tripp, *Come Let Us Adore Him*

“The nature of salvation is peace, or reconciliation — peace with God, peace with men, peace within. The source of salvation is grace, God’s free favour, irrespective of any human merit or works, His loving-kindness to the undeserving. And this grace and peace flow from the Father and the Son together.”

- John Stott

“Here is the forward thrust of Advent, the countervailing motion that lifts the boats clear, the heralding announcement of the arriving God. The note that is struck is sounded from the future. We are not looking backward sentimentally to a baby; we are looking forward to the only One in whom the promise of peace will someday be fulfilled.”

- Fleming Rutledge, *Advent*