

The Announcement / The Joy

Part Three of “Can You Hear the Melody?”

The announcement of Christ’s entry into the world must have been stirring for the family and friends of Mary and Joseph. Undoubtedly a mixture of anxiety, hope, confusion, and wonder heaved their hearts; but it wouldn’t be heavy for long, as it was soon replaced with a melody of joy.

Joy has long been a theme in the best Christmas carols. We sing, “O tidings of comfort and joy” and “Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name.”

There is joy in the story of Jesus’ birth in the Scriptures, too. When Mary heard of the good news of bearing the world’s Messiah, she was captivated with praise singing, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” The joyous melody of God erupted in Mary’s soul, and all she could do was express it in spontaneous song.

The same occurred in Luke 2. The shepherds paused for the night to allow the sheep to graze and get some much-needed rest. Suddenly, their rest was interrupted by a light so encompassing that it left no shadows. Behold, the darkness of the night sky exploded with a choir of angels singing the melody of Christ’s birth. We are told that the tired shepherds had one response terror. After all, it isn’t every night the sky bursts in glorious light and bellowing song. However, the angels’ message turned terror into celebration. The angels sang of “good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” Good news and great joy the shepherds needed some good news and great joy, and so could we. The promise that began in Genesis 3 to restore the good world God created was now bursting into magnificent reality and the shepherds had a front row seat.

The birth of Jesus was clearly accompanied with a melody of joy, exuberance, and elation. But why? The angels answer that for us when they state to the shepherds that “today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.” Now THAT is a message of joy. Once enslaved by sin, humanity was unchained by the work of this promised Child, known as Jesus of Nazareth.

Here in the birth of Jesus, the melody of the Father reaches its highest crescendo. No wonder Mary sings with joy! No wonder the angels rejoice! No wonder God’s people have been singing with joy for centuries! We became the messengers of joy with our song and what a melody of praise it is. So, cue the strings, strike up the band, raise the voices a Savior has been born to us.

Can you hear the melody?

This reflection was written by Bill Kuhn, who is the V.P. of Student Development/Campus Chaplain at Crown College.



WELCOME TO LAKEVIEW CHAPEL **Sunday, December 13, 2020 / Worship 10AM**

Advent Wreath	Zephaniah 3:17
Invocation	
Hymn # 108	Angels From The Realms Of Glory
Welcome & Announcements	
Song	Good Christian Men Rejoice
Hymn # 117	O Little Town Of Bethlehem
Responsive Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Children’s Program Finale	
Bell Choir	Hark The Herald Angels Sing
Prayer	Kristie
Message	LOVE – I Hear Singing Pastor Dave Havener
Song	He Has Come For Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)
Benediction	

Sermons are available online at:
<https://www.lakeviewowego.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/lakeviewowego>

Events and Information

LUNCH ON THE GO – Lakeview Chapel will provide Lunch on the Go today. Meals will be distributed out of the glass foyer area from 11:15 to 11:45 AM as you exit the church. Help will be provided for anyone who needs to exit by the ramp. If you would like to help, see Kelly.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – Our Christmas Eve service will be held Thursday, December 24 at 6 PM. If you or your family would like to participate in lighting a candle or scripture reading, please see Pastor Dave.

C&MA 40 DAYS OF PRAYER – Begins January 3, 2021 but you need to register now to receive daily devotional reflections with applications for all ages, livestream events and weekly virtual prayer gatherings. Sign-up at <https://www.cmalliance.org>. Please let Pastor Dave know if you are participating.

TRAINING GROUND 2021 / VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

This one-day online training event will be held on Saturday, January 30. For pastors, ministry leaders and volunteers. Cost \$25 per person. For more information and to register go to: www.TrainingGroundNED.com. Registration scholarships are available upon request.

C&MA YEAR-END OFFERING – An offering will be received until December 27. Mark your gift "Year-End Offering" and place it in the Offering Box or give online at <https://www.cmalliance.org/yearend>.

COUPLE CHECK-UP - LVC is offering a free Couple Check-Up for every married couple as well as engaged and dating couples. It's a tool to help you be intentional about strengthening your relationship. This is NOT only for struggling relationships, it's for every couple who is serious about having the best relationship they can have. It involves a short on-line survey that each person answers individually and once both have completed it, a report and discussion guide will be sent to your email addresses so that you can assess your relationship and engage in conversation together. Your personal results are for your eyes only. The pastor will receive a group summary, an anonymous snapshot of couples in our church family, to use in addressing trends and general topics in our congregation. The Check-Up will be available to access ONLY from December 27th through January 27th, so watch for the unique church access code in next week's bulletin!

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – Our Annual Business Meeting will be held Sunday, January 24 at 11:15 AM. A fellowship dinner will follow.

ANNUAL REPORTS – Please have annual reports in the church office by Sunday, January 10 to allow enough time to make copies available before the annual meeting.

Small Group Ministry

Small Groups

Adult Group (Led by Steve & Kristie)

Meeting Friday evenings at 7 PM at Steve & Kristie's home. For more information, call the church office (607)-687-3261.

Bible Study Groups

Women's Bible Study (Led by Anne)

The Women's Bible Study group will resume meetings after the first of the year.

Men's Bible Study (Led by Pastor Dave)

Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM at Lakeview. Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Bible Study (Led by Mickey)

Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM at Lakeview. Meeting in the first-floor classroom by the stairs. Studying 'The Daniel Prayer' by Anne Graham Lotz.

Prayer Group (Led by Art) Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM at Lakeview. Meeting in the church office.

Wednesday Night Youth Programs (6:30-8 PM)

IMPACT (Teen Group 6th–12th grade) Meeting at Lakeview.

This Weeks Calendar

Wednesday	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting, IMPACT (Teen Group)
	6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study
Thursday	6:00 PM	Elder's Meeting
Friday	7:00 PM	Adult Small Group

**We're building a community of faith in God
that LIVES WELL but not by SIGHT.**