

**Luke 2:1-20** (Read by children)

*"At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.*

*<sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly, in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.*

*<sup>8</sup> That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.*

*<sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The **Savior**—yes, the **Messiah**, the **Lord**—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."*

*<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*

*<sup>15</sup> When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*<sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, <sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them."*

**Jesus' coming is about:**

**1. HOPE**

- **Matthew 4:16** "We have seen a brilliant light...And those who live in the dark shadow land of death can now say,...the dawning light arises on us."

**2. PREPARATION**

- **1 Timothy 1:1-2** "This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and Christ Jesus, who gives us hope. <sup>2</sup> I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace."

**3. PEACE**

**4. ADORATION**