

Sierra's Christmas Series

CHRIST  
MAS  
CALLS

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24 DECEMBER

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4:30pm / 6pm / 7:30pm

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**LUKE 2:1-20**

**<sup>1</sup> 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.**

**4 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.**

**5 He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.**

**6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 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.**

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

**14 “Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with whom God  
is pleased.”**

**15 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.”**

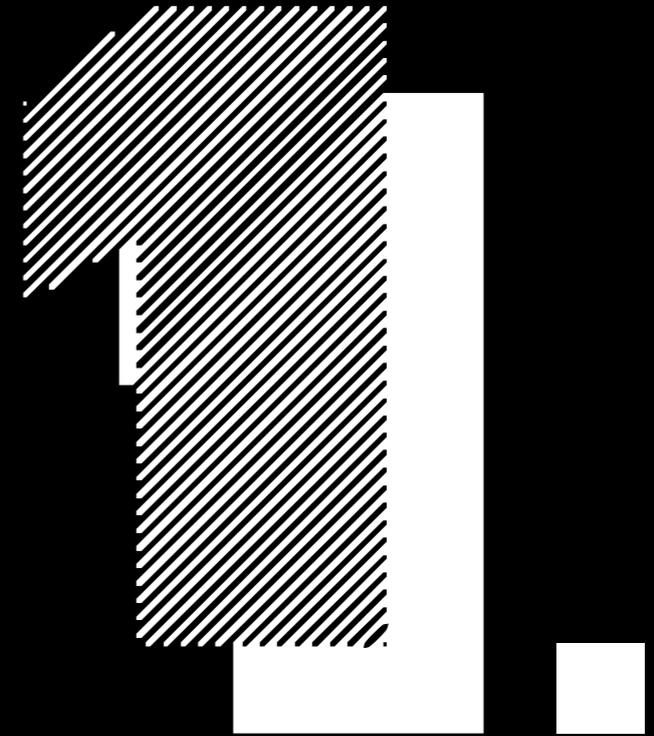
**16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17 After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18 All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,**

**19 but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.**

**20 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.**

**Luke 2:1–20. (NLT)**

*God uses unexpected  
circumstances*



**“Those who perceived a messianic prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” didn’t take it to mean a virgin would miraculously become pregnant with God. They assumed a chaste young bride would conceive the Messiah in the, you know, standard manner.**

**And no one believed “Immanuel” literally meant God would become flesh and dwell among them. God’s ways were much wilder than even his people had imagined.”**

**Jon Bloom – Desiring God**

**As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**Isaiah 55:9**

*God uses unexpected  
people*



**"In that day, shepherds were considered to be at the lowest rung of the social ladder. Their work not only kept them away from the temple and the synagogue, but it made them ceremonially unclean."**

**W. Wiersbe**

**“How very richly God honors those who are despised of men. Here you see that his eyes look into the depths of humility. Could God’s angels not have addressed the high priests, who it was supposed knew so much concerning God and the angels?”**

**No, God chose poor shepherds, who, though they were of low esteem in the sight of men, were in heaven regarded as worthy of such great grace and honor.”**

**Martin Luther**

**This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.**

**Luke 2:34–35**

*God meets us in  
unexpected places*



**26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.**

**27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;**

**God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.**

**1 Corinthians 1:26–28**

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with  
whom God is pleased.**

**Luke 2:14**

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

**John 14:27**