

Finding Home Away from Home

Advent 2020

“HOPE”

Luke 2:1-20

Advent during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Grieving the loss of so much that is familiar

The theme of displacement, alienation, discomfort, strange surroundings in Christmas

To see God's provision in this story can give us hope for provision in our story

Seeing the Theme of Displacement and Alienation

Gabriel's announcement was 9 months past

Think of the long suffering since

The decreed census: verses 1-4

The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem described: verse 4

Mary was with child: verse 5

Delivery in a manger: verse 7

Now Joseph and Mary can't get a break

The Strange Story of the Appearance to the Shepherds: v. 8-14

The status of shepherds in that day

Why the announcement to them?

A gift to Mary (see in particular verse 19)

Those who would be at home in the place Mary was feeling estranged

They would share Mary's experience of an angelic visitation

They would reaffirm to Mary the great story she was still in

Hope Rises Out of a Dark Place When...

We find we are not alone

When we are reminded we are playing a part in a grand story, bigger than us

When we realize our current struggle is contributing something to that story

This Pandemic We are In

We are in it together

The Christmas Story is our Word from God reminding us of the great story we are in

We realize our current struggle is contributing something to that story

Jesus chooses to be born afresh in the world through a manger of our day

All the while He never ceases to see us

He just might send us our own "shepherds" to give us hope to persevere when we most need it
