

Advent Devotional - Day 08

2025

December 8th

Scripture: Luke 2:8-9 Verse: “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”



Reflection:

It's remarkable that shepherds were the first to hear the good news. God chose ordinary, often overlooked workers to get the first word about the Messiah. That tells us something clear: God values humility and being close to need more than fame or public praise.

If shepherds were first, then everyday work matters to God. In Penn Hills that means service workers, caregivers, tradespeople, and everyone who works to keep life going deserve our respect. The gospel says that regular work, quiet sacrifices, and unseen tasks are not just part of God's world but central to it, and honoring that work is part of living out the good news.

The shepherds' announcement shows the gospel is for everyone, not just a private message for the comfortable. The church's job is to turn wonder into real access—so worship, resources, and welcome aren't reserved for the socially privileged but open to all. That means removing barriers, bringing beauty into public life, accepting people for who they are and not for what they wear or how they dress. It means offering hospitality that respects everyone and appreciates them for the what they bring to our community instead of judging them.

Practically, this looks like meeting people where they are: prayer groups at worksites, community meals timed for shift workers, legal and benefits help in easy-to-reach places, and worship that allows people with different life rhythms to happily praise God together. It also means listening to people on the margins and letting their needs shape our ministries instead of assuming programs made for the comfortable will serve everyone.

For Mt. Hope and Penn Hills, the shepherds' story calls us to focus our time and resources on people who are usually overlooked. Share the gospel plainly and openly. Turn easy access into real, practical help. Build a church that makes the good news available to everyone, especially those the world ignores.

Prayer: God, reveal Your glory to those who labor unseen and help us to honor their worth. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Brighten a worker's day — bring coffee to a night-shift team, leave a note for postal carriers, or thank a school custodian.



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