

Advent Devotional - Day 11

2025

December 11th



Scripture: Luke 2:15-16 *“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”*

Reflection:

The shepherds didn’t just hear the good news and sit with it—they got up and went. They moved from hearing to seeing, from announcement to action. That’s the kind of faith that doesn’t stay at arm’s length. It shows up. It walks toward the story, toward the people, toward the mess and the miracle. For Mt. Hope, that’s a clear invitation: when we hear about need in our neighborhood, we’re called to respond with our presence, not just our thoughts or prayers.

It’s easy to stay in the realm of good intentions—feeling sympathy, talking about issues, even planning solutions from a distance. But the gospel doesn’t unfold in theory; it unfolds in real places, among real people. That means visiting someone who’s lonely, showing up for a neighbor in crisis, mentoring a teen who’s figuring life out, or simply sitting with someone who’s grieving. These are the moments where faith becomes flesh—where our witness starts to carry weight because we’re actually there.

When Mt. Hope steps into those spaces, we’re not just doing good—we’re joining the story God is already writing. The gospel is always moving toward people, especially those on the margins. And when we go there too, with open hands and listening hearts, we become part of something holy. Our credibility doesn’t come from having all the answers; it comes from being willing to walk the road, just like the shepherds did.

Prayer: Lord, when we hear your call, help us move—into presence, into service, into real relationship. Give us courage to show up where your love is already at work. Amen

Today’s Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Gather a small group this week to visit a local family in need, cook a meals for the men/women shelters, or lend a hand at a nearby ministry site—show up with care, presence, and practical support.



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