

When I want to feel close to God....

I go outdoors. Or I look at pictures of majestic landscapes. Or I look little watercolor trees.

We all feel closer to God...

In certain times and places. Where do you sense God? When you want to feel close to God, where do you go?

The First Christmas

Luke 2:8-20 NLT

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." 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." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. 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.

Sermon in a Sentence:

We can detect heaven's joy everywhere because Bethlehem's baby King Jesus brought it to earth.

A New Point of View

You and I tend to look for God's presence and the joy he gives in certain places. But Jesus came to save you from joyless living. He came to give you access to God and his joy at any time and in any place.

We can detect heaven's joy...

Heaven's joy is available to every person in every place. Joy is ours in this place right now. We don't need to wait for a better time and place. Jesus is here. He wants us to experience his joy. He wants us to feel God's presence right now. I'm ready. Are you?