

# **PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH**

## *LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE*

**Sermon Date: 18/12/2022**

**Text(s): Luke 2:1—20**

**Sermon Title: The Mystery of Christmas**

**Preacher: Rev Collin See**

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

### **READ (5 mins)**

#### **Luke 2:1–20 (NLT)**

- 1** At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.
- 2** (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
- 3** 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.
- 8** That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.
- 9** Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified,
- 10** but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.
- 11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!
- 12** 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.

### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. Joseph and Mary had to make a long and arduous trip from Nazareth in the northern region to Bethlehem, which is near Jerusalem, as the result of a decree by Emperor Augustus to take a census throughout the Roman Empire. Do you sometimes feel like someone or something is in control of your life, making you go where you never thought of going or do what you never thought of doing? How did the first part of the sermon speak to you?**
- 2. Suppose life circumstances do get rather challenging and the trials we go through get really tough. What can we do to receive help from Jesus our Saviour and Shepherd?**

### **REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. Have you ever felt that your prayers were not heard by God? If yes, what thoughts were running through your mind during that time? From the sermon, what did we learn about how God sees us and the things that matter to us?**
- 2. Another mystery of salvation is seen in how Simeon said he had seen the salvation of God just by seeing Jesus on the day Jesus was circumcised at the Temple in Jerusalem. The preacher said, "Salvation isn't something you do, it is Someone you know." Do you agree with this statement? What are your thoughts on this?**

### **REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to always have the confidence that our God has us high on His list and that He is the over ruler of all things.
- Pray for our church to be a people who know their Saviour, Christ Jesus, personally and be eager to seek His direction in all things.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.