

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Luke 2:13-14

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

Do you sometimes find that something jumping out at you when you are not expecting it? Life has a habit of doing this to us. They can be big or small, they can be great fun, or downright scary. They come bringing changes in our lives, some bringing so much joy to us especially when a new baby arrives in the family. We know of course there are the times of great sadness which we have to cope with, but we know that God holds us in both happy and sad times He is always with us. Can you just imagine what it would have been for the shepherds when they first saw the host of angels above them? It must have been quite frightening, but they seemed to find a peace within them which encouraged them, to listen and to follow the star to guide them to the stable where Jesus had been born.

They must have been overjoyed when they arrived after their first reaction of wonder at what was before them. We can sense this feeling when we meet someone we haven't seen for a long time and bump into them in the shops. It is always lovely when that happens. We also have the flip side to this when we have a sudden death in the family, or someone we know losing their job through redundancy not expected, causing so much anguish all round. Yet we know that our Heavenly Father is watching over us. He knows the pain we are going through and through this his peace will be his gift to us. We have been given a special gift of Christ Jesus coming as a baby, but also a king, bringing forgiveness of all our sins and in return only asks that we love one another as he loves us. At this run up to Christmas let us remember that it is Christ's Birth we are celebrating and as such we can also say- “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Prayer

Loving Lord let us give thanks that you are with us always bringing peace, love and joy into our hearts at this special time. Amen