

SERIES: the *Word* is with us.

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, December 2-3, 2023

SERMON: Watching God at Work

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:24-38 NIV

[1:24] After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

[25] "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

[26] In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

[27] to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

[28] The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

[29] Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

[30] But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

[31] You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

[32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

[33] and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

[34] "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

[35] The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

[36] Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

[37] For no word from God will ever fail."

[38] "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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1. Notice _____ (v.26)

- An angel meaning " _____ ".
- An angel is a _____ who speaks for God.

Hebrews 1:14 *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

- Angels are _____ beings who marvel at God's _____.

1 Peter 1:10-23 *Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow ... Even angels long to look into these things.*

Luke 1:19 *The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.*

2. Notice _____ (vv.27-31)

- A _____ young woman of _____ and _____.
- A woman who should be respected and honored – _____. Christ _____ for Mary as He did for us.
- Jesus is the _____ of Scripture (vv.32-33)

3. Notice the _____ (v.35)

- " _____ " is the same word as found when Jesus was _____, describing the cloud of God's _____.

4. Notice _____ (v32-33)

- The _____.
- The _____ (Christ).
- The _____.

Lagniappe

Tis the Christmas Season ...

This past Sunday we kicked off the Christmas Season with the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree on the South lawn. It was a wonderful experience with music and fellowship.

This Sunday, you may notice "Bethlehem" on our south lawn. The Children's Connect Groups will be celebrating ***Miracle in the Manger*** - focusing on the birth of Jesus that includes a Living Nativity, a Petting Zoo, and the Bethlehem Marketplace.

Here are some dates you need to know as we go through December:

- December 8 & 9: ***Christmas Together – a Christmas Worship Celebration***. *This will be a special time of Christmas worship led by our multigenerational choir & orchestra. We would love for you to invite your friends and family to join us at one of the three presentations on Friday, December 8 @ 7:00pm, or Saturday December 9 @ either 2:00pm or 6:00pm. No ticket required.*
- December 15: Friday – ***Miss PattyCake Live – Happy Birthday Jesus***. *This is for our preschool children and their families. Tickets are \$10/family. 6:00-8:00pm in the Worship Center. Email ddrivon@fbccov.org to reserve your spot.*
- December 19 - 21: We will have our regularly scheduled activities.
- December 22: Friday the office will be closed.
- December 23: Saturday – no Connect Groups or Worship service.
- December 24: Sunday ***Christmas Eve*** we will have 3 services at ***9:30am, 11:00am, & 3:00pm***. *This will be a time of reverence and awe as we celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through music, scripture, and the Lord's Supper. No Connect Groups*
- December 25 & 26: Monday & Tuesday the office will be closed.
- December 25 - 29: No activities (*Except Celebrate Recovery*).
- December 30: Saturday – no Connect Groups or Worship service.
- December 31: Sunday Services at 9:30am & 11:00am, no Connect Groups.
- January 1: Monday the office will be closed.
- January 1-3: No activities (*Except Celebrate Recovery*).

One final thing – This weekend during all three services we will be voting on approving our \$8 million church budget for 2024. We broke it down and discussed it at our Congregational Meeting on November 15th – but did not vote, as per our by-laws. This weekend we vote, but do not discuss.

Waylon