

**Devotion, Week of December 29, 2024**  
**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people." Luke 2:10*

The first words of the messenger spoken to these lowly shepherds might shed some light on why this light in the night sky is one of great joy: "Fear not." We should not be afraid as we stand in the presence of God, for we are now welcomed hearers of this amazing grace.

The "good news" is that Jesus the Christ comes to enter the darkness of our sin and reclaim sinners as God's own children. And the "great joy" of this message is that it is not just for the shepherds on the hillside but for the whole world. No one is left out in the cold. No one is removed from the celebration.

In the grace of Christ's coming, there are no sinners, scammers, or losers. What makes Christ's grace amazing is that "it saved a wretch like me." Jesus has come, once again, to bring us victory over sin and death, to free us from all fear and judgment, and to embrace us with the promise that sinners like us – all of us – are surrounded and saved with great joy!

Yours in Christ,

*from The Light of Grace*

*Jeanne*