

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

#donotbeafraid

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point- their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear in the world!

ADVENT 1 12/3/17 **Make Ready a People: #morehope**

Luke 1: 5-25, 57-80

It was just another day for Zechariah, when an angel showed up at the altar. Have you ever had a moment in your life after which you knew nothing would ever be the same? In the midst of great change, God calls us to be messengers of *#morehope* in an ever-changing world.

ADVENT 2 12/10/17 **Nothing is Impossible: #morepeace**

Luke 1: 26-56

Zechariah freaked out when the other-worldly creature appeared to him, but Mary replied, "Let it be so." Have you ever struggled with finding your purpose and being at peace with it? *#morepeace* in the world happens when all of us feel and live out that message each day.

ADVENT 3 12/17/17 **Do Not Be Afraid: #morejoy**

Matthew 1: 18-25

Every angel seems to use "do not be afraid" as an opening line. But perhaps no one needed hear it more than Joseph. What was happening to him was the stuff that ruins lives. Keeping up "appearances" can rob us of our *#morejoy*. Let us be messengers of encouragement and steadfast support, as Joseph was, for that which the Spirit is birthing in the world.

ADVENT 4 12/24/17 **This Will Be a Sign: #morelove**

Luke 2: 1-20

The sky was brighter than usual that night, making it easier to keep track of the sheep. That's what most of us look for--great big clues about God's presence. But instead, the angel says that a newborn helpless baby in a feeding trough was the sign. In a flash, the message was that *#morelove* is found where you least expect it and perhaps is already there residing in the ordinariness of your life.

CHRISTMAS EVE 12/24/17 **Do Not be Afraid: #donotbeafraid**

Luke 1

"Yes, I believe there are angels among us. God calls us to be messengers of love, flying in the face of fear, and *#donotbeafraid*, for we are the Body of Christ."

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE 12/31/17 **Kwanzaa**