

The angel of the  
Lord came down -  
Proclaiming good  
news

Luke 2:8-20

# Two basic questions

Why did the angels appear?

- Why not at the stable when Jesus was born?

Why shepherds?

- Why not to Herod, the Chief Priest, or the whole city of Jerusalem?

Possible answers:

- A superhero movie script
- God of the market place

# Superhero movie

## One way to think about Christmas – a movie!

- Genesis 1 & 2 – God made everything and it was perfect
- Genesis 3 – humanity seized control and broke the perfect relationship we previously had with God
- Satan had his opportunity and war was declared
- To heal the rift with His creation God decided to become a human
- But He had to find a way in behind enemy lines
- Revelation 12 ('The woman and the dragon')

# Victory!

## The end of the movie

- The hero has infiltrated behind enemy lines
- The bomb has been planted that will bring down the evil empire

Isaiah's prophecy comes true: 'For to us a child is born' (Is 9:6)

'Where oh death is your victory? Where, o death, is your sting?' (1 Cor 15:55)

No wonder the angels are celebrating!

But why the shepherds?

# Why appear to shepherds?

If this was a movie script: it could be a mistake!

But God's in charge – this is His plan

- “The last shall be first” (Jesus, Matt 20)

God is meeting us where we are

- ‘Living out in the fields...’

God is re-establishing His relationship with humanity

- “Fear not” ... “a saviour has been born to you”

# What does this mean for us?

God has won! Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has healed the rift caused by our desire for control

But we have to look for Him

- Just like the shepherds ('they hurried off...')

God meets us where we are – but He wants us to change

- 'The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God...'

God wants us to spread the word (Luke 2:17)