

# ADVENT 2009 AT CIB!

FIRST SUNDAY... FAITH AND FEAR  
SECOND SUNDAY... FAITH AND GRACE  
THIRD SUNDAY... **FAITH AND PRAISE**  
FOURTH SUNDAY... FAITH AND US

**Scripture: Luke 2:1-20, page**  
**"...DO NOT BE AFRAID..."**

We have seen the words "**do not be afraid**" come into lives and erase fear, freeing faith to find it's fullest expression, and freeing a faithful grace to change the course of history... and today we see fear set aside so that faithful praise can ring from the skies, to the journey of some local shepherds, and the quiet places of a human heart.

We need to praise, it's an important part of who we are. It is about faith, joy and life... it is the mind and heart, soul and body joined in a special moment. We speak it, sing it, hear it, need it, share it, and let it heal us...

**IN THE  
ABSENCE  
OF FEAR  
PRAISE  
IS LIVED.**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*  
by  
**Friedrich Peter**



*"Take a music bath once or twice a week for a few seasons,  
and you will find that it is to the soul  
what the water-bath is to the body."  
William Shakespeare*

## THE STORY... "ARE WE THERE YET?!" YES.

We are really there... all the annunciations done, pregnancy complete, and it's birth time! But honestly, it doesn't look like a real smooth set of circumstances: red tape and bureaucracy, last minute travel, rooms all booked up, etc. That's rough on a woman ready to have a baby. But at least we're finally there...

## SOME SHEPHERDS...

Just in case you're wondering, this birth is a big deal. Big enough to fill the sky with angels for some wondering shepherds in the field. And big enough for you and I to take notice, too. Thank God, that this is good news for folks like that and like us. Thank God, you don't have to "be somebody" to join in the song! Put fear aside and jump in! And of course, the symbolism is fabulous... shepherds?

## SOME ANGELS...

I suppose that the angels hit the scene to send the shepherds into Bethlehem, but I bet they just wanted to have some fun, do some singing and praise God... and amen to that, too! When have you felt the urge to sing? What drives the music of your life?

## THE HEART OF A YOUNG WOMAN...

When was the last time you took a moment and just let the music of your heart swell and fill you? Have you gathered the blessings of life and just let them role you around for a while?

**BIG IDEAS HAPPENING HERE... "PRAISEWORTHY STUFF"**

Emmanuel  
Peace on Earth  
Savior  
The Lord's Favor  
No More Fear

**OUR GOAL... NOT TO LET THESE GO UN-NOTICED  
OR UN-TOUCHED IN OUR LIVES!**

## **Weekly Grace... Luke 2:1-20**

**Meditation for the Third Week of Advent, 2009**

How do you concretely praise God? Have any fears or inhibitions held you back? Is the vocabulary new for you or uncomfortable for you?

How would you like to praise God? How can you get started?

What is the music of your life?