



Jesus Christ, our All in all  
CrossTalk's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**6 – 12 Dec, 2020**

**Christmas, part 1**

'Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people' Luke 2:10

### **Introduction**

- † The Gospels according to Mathew and Luke are the only two gospels that recount aspects or parts of the Nativity story of our Savior, though each of the two mentions narratives which the second does not
- † Mathew tells of the wise men, worshipers of the stars and planets, who are guided unto the birth of the infant Jesus (though no number is given of those wise men, contrary to popular belief that they were 3), **(Mat 2:1-12)** while Luke speaks of an angel of the Lord (and the word angel, 'angelos' in Greek means 'messenger') appearing to shepherds at night, heralding the birth of a 'Savior' **(Luk 2:8-20)**

### **The Shepherds, the Wise Men and us**

1. God speaks to us from within our lives because He is present in every detail and moment of it
  - † Both groups were engaged in something very ordinary pertaining to their normal daily affairs
  - † Our Lord spoke to the shepherds while they were shepherding, and spoke to the wise men through one of the stars they worship
  - † The Lord loves hard workers; He reveals Himself while we are at work
2. God uses our own experiences to elevate us to Him from within the mundane and ordinary
  - † In the case of the shepherds, he interjected into their routine affairs
  - † while in the case of the wise men he used a star, similar to those which they encounter every day, to point them to Him
3. Our Lord abides in clean hearts, in ready minds; worship is a vital condition which the Lord demands from those He is engaged with

- † both were very faithful towards that which they were engaged in, being shepherding or astronomy
  - † Our Lord did not ask them for certificates of doctrinal belief nor for their affiliation
  - † The wise men were star worshipers, people who were not monotheistic in their belief, yet He used a star they worship to save them
  - † The shepherds were vigilantly watchful, and He used their vigilance to attract them to Him
4. Christ said that He was the light of the world. It is this Light which we are called to experience in the midst of our daily affairs, not necessarily in a hermitage or any far-away place. Both groups experienced the Light
- † Luke says that *‘the glory of the Lord shone around them’ (Luk 2:9)*
  - † the way of the wise men was illuminated by the light of the star, which is today proven scientifically to have been a comet
5. Any person who is not filled with awe in being with our Savior is a person who should strive to rise from where he or she is, and experience the presence and work of God in his or her daily affairs. God, after all, ‘is the God of small things,’ and it is in the mundane where He most works. All the signs of our Lord were done in this domain. Both were filled with awe
- † the wise men *‘worshipped Him’ (Mat 2:11)*
  - † *‘Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them’ (Luk 2:20)*
6. A person who experiences the presence of the Redeemer, is called to go and not only a transmitter of this experience, but also a messenger. In the Biblical sense, the word messenger denotes ‘that who is identical in orientation and fervor to the one who sent him’
- † the wise men and the shepherds both ‘returned’ to their homes after witnessing the wondrous birth of our Lord – a birth that itself took place in the ordinary, in a manger

### Bibliography

1. *‘The Shepherds and the Wise men- A Common Narrative’* by Father Boulos Wehbe, Pastor of St Michael Church, for the Greek Orthodox, Beirut, the Treasurer at CrossTalk’s Board of Directors, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities at Notre Dame University (NDU)
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

## Legend



Refers to mandatory readings

## Verse to memorize

'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory'

John 1:14

## In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

### God acts

† The Lord's Light is shining around us and upon us in our daily affairs

### My reaction

† Am I being watchful and thankful?

† Am I filling myself from the Light and spreading Him to others?

## During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

## During this coming week, we will lift the Protestant Church in prayer

### الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَوَاتِ  
لِيَتَقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ  
لِيَأْتِ مَلَكُوتُكَ  
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ  
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ  
كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ  
خُبِّرْنَا كَفَافًا أَعْطَانَا الْيَوْمَ  
وَاعْفُزْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا  
كَمَا نَعْفِرُ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا  
لِلْمُذْنِبِينَ إِلَيْنَا  
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي تَجْرِبَةٍ  
لَكِنِّ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّيرِ  
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمَلِكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ  
إِلَى الْأَبَدِ  
أَمِينَ

### قانون الايمان

نحن نؤمن بإله واحد، أبٍ قادر على كلِّ شيءٍ  
خالق السَّماءِ والأرضِ  
وكلِّ ما يُرى وما لا يُرى  
و برَبِّ واحدٍ يسوع المسيح، ابنِ الله الوحيد  
المولود من الأب قبلَ كلِّ الدهور  
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حقٌّ من إله حقٍّ  
مولود غير مخلوق  
ذو جوهر واحد مع الأب  
هو الَّذِي بِهِ كَانَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ  
الَّذِي مِنْ أَجْلِنا نحن البشرِ ومن أَجْلِ خِلاصِنا  
نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ  
و تجسَّدَ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ مِنْ مَرْيَمِ الْعَذْرَاءِ وَصَارَ إِنْسَانًا  
و صُلِبَ عَنَّا عَلَى عَهْدِ بِيلاطُسَ الْبِنطَلي  
وتألَّم وقُيِّرَ  
وقام أَيْضًا فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ حَسَبَ الْكُتُبِ  
وصعدَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ  
وهو جالسٌ عَنِ يَمِينِ الْأَبِ  
وسَيَأْتِي أَيْضًا بِمَجْدٍ  
لِيُدِينَ الْأَحْيَاءَ وَالْأَمْواتِ  
الَّذِي لَيْسَ لِمَلِكِهِ نِهَابَةٌ  
ونؤمن بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ  
الرَّبِّ الْمُحْيِي  
الْمُنْبِتِ مِنَ الْأَبِ وَالْإِبْنِ  
المسجود له والمُجَمَّدُ مَعَ الْأَبِ وَالْإِبْنِ  
الَّذِي نَكَلِّمُ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ  
ونعتقدُ بِكَنِيسَةٍ واحِدةٍ، مقدَّسةٍ، جامعَةٍ، رسوليَّةٍ  
و نَعْتَرِفُ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةٍ واحِدةٍ لمَغْفِرَةِ الْخَطَايَا  
و نَنْتَظِرُ قِيامَةَ المَوتَى وحياةَ الدَّهْرِ الآتِي  
أَمِينَ