

ADVENT
WEEK 2



Rediscovering Awe

Unexpected Glory



DECEMBER 7-8, 2019

NORTHLAND
CHURCH

Unexpected Glory

A message from Matt Heard, Lead Pastor

Read about Pastor Matt at northlandchurch.net/pastormatt.

LUKE 2:8-14 (NIV)

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

NOTES

UPCOMING SERVICES

» Dec 14-15 | Advent Week 3 | REDISCOVERING AWE | Unexpected Peace | Luke 2:8-14 | Pastor Matt Heard

» Dec 21-22 | Advent Week 4 | REDISCOVERING AWE | Unexpected Favor | Luke 2:8-14 | Dr. Steve Brown with Pastor Matt Heard

Christmas. On the surface, it's gift lists and shopping sprees, crisp nights and fun parties, Rudolphs on roofs and Santas in stores, trimmed trees and lavish lights. Going deeper, it's connecting with friends, reuniting with family, nostalgic carols, scrumptious meals, giving gifts, and making memories. But what if ...

What if

... we add rediscovering awe to our Christmas expectations this year?

... in the midst of navigating our normal holiday routine, we find again—or unwrap for the first time—the awe and wonder of the extraordinary events launching the celebration thousands of years ago?

... at the deepest level, Christmas becomes a time of peeling back accumulated layers of holiday clichés—diving into the astonishing “why” and “so what” behind the season?

... we enter into the mystery of God becoming flesh and inhabiting our broken reality?

What if

... Christmas becomes a time of reflecting on the mundane being indwelt by the majestic?

... we slip into sandals of obscure, peasant shepherds whose commonplace existence was interrupted by an encounter with Heaven ... and we, too, are mesmerized by an angelic symphony proclaiming unexpected Hope?

... this season found us imagining the smells and sensations of a first-century stable—wallpapered with soot from centuries of Bedouin fires, carpeted with innumerable layers of sheep manure?

... we engage with the cosmic incongruity of the Creator of the World and Restorer of our Humanity occupying a shepherd's cave, clothed in rags, cradled in a feeding trough?

What if

... we contrast the tranquility of that night with the sheer horror of a crucifixion thirty-three years later and—with overwhelming gladness, gratitude, and grief—realize the eternal purpose of His birth?

... we spend this season pondering what it means for ordinary human beings—in the midst of routine schedules, overwhelming stress, and truncated happiness—to graciously, unexpectedly be summoned by God Himself?

Welcome to Advent 2019! Our hope is that this teaching series will serve as an invitation for us to listen together to the angels' song ... ***tasting Christ's Joy, delving into His Glory, experiencing His Peace, and relishing His Favor.***

What's Current

Find out more information at NorthlandChurch.net or ask a connections team member wearing an orange lanyard for assistance.

POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM To honor or memorialize your loved ones.

To place your order by Monday, December 16, fill out this form (please print clearly) and place it, along with \$10 for each plant, into a tithe envelope found at the offering boxes. Label the envelope "Poinsettias" and deposit it there. Checks should be made payable to Northland Church. Or purchase them online at NorthlandChurch.net/Christmas. Details: Barbara Gritter at barbara.gritter@northlandchurch.net or 407-949-4000.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Purchased plants will be placed as decorations throughout the church and will be available for pickup in the lobby after the 6 p.m. service on Tuesday, December 24.

Christmas Service Times

Join us and invite a friend!

MONDAY, DEC 23 | 6 P.M.

TUESDAY, DEC 24 | 2, 4, & 6 P.M.

For more info, visit

NorthlandChurch.net/Christmas

Volunteer at a Christmas Service

Worship at one service, then serve at another.

100'S OF VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

For more info and to sign up, visit

NorthlandChurch.net/Christmas

Tithes and Offerings

**"The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion."**

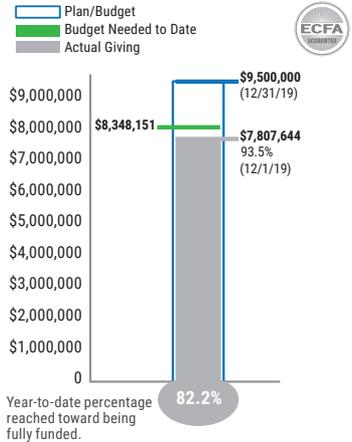
—Psalm 116:5

On GivingTuesday, you demonstrated amazing compassion for the people in our congregation who make up Northland's Access Ministries. As a church family, you donated \$58,765—surpassing our goal of \$50,000. While we won't know the exact amount of Facebook's match until early January, so many of you jumped in right at 8 a.m., putting us in an outstanding position to have a significant match contribution.

The support raised will impact our congregation and community to ensure all people are seen, known, and celebrated as part of God's intentional design for humanity. And while the money we raised is important, the message you communicated about **everyone's** worth in the Kingdom is priceless. Thank you, Northland family, for your inspiring generosity!

Turning your attention to the budget for 2019, with only four weeks remaining, you can see we are coming closer to fully funding the kingdom work happening here everyday. Closing the gap for ministry to continue thrive through Northland is in God's control—demonstrated through your faithful financial partnership. We ask you to join us in acknowledging His sovereignty, seeking His provision, and thanking Him for His abundant grace as together we are **Engaging People to be Fully Alive in Jesus.**

January 1 - December 1, 2019



Be sure to check out the December issue of Engage and turn to pages 44-45 for a review of the amazing year you've facilitated through 2019!

Ways to Give

Give via mobile text. Text "northland" to 77977.



Download and use the PushPay App.



Give online at NorthlandChurch.net/Give or use the Northland App.



Give by cash or check and drop it in any of our tithe boxes.



Give at the iPad stations located throughout the foyer.

