

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The Shepherds feared and trembled,  
When, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born,  
God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional  
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren  
December 16th, 2018

Morning Service:

Ephesians 6: 10 – 24

## United for Battle

1. We Are Called to Stand Strong in Christ (10-11).
2. We Are Fitted for Warfare Against All the Power of Evil (12-20).
3. Our Warfare Encompasses Many Spheres (12).

**Conclusion:** If you are in Christ as an adopted child of God, then you are engaged in a spiritual battle. We are united together in Christ and called to stand our ground on the gospel. We are equipped for that battle with Christ's own armor and fitted together with the rest of the saints to stand firm. Let us stand strong in Christ's own strength.

Evening Service:

Nehemiah 5: 1 – 19

## The Cost of Community

1. A Sibling's Cry
2. Gospel Economics
3. Loving the People of Woodstock

It is great to talk about loving one another, but the practical cost of what that takes can be overwhelming. Yet, God has adopted us into His family and given us siblings for whom He has made us responsible to share out of His blessings to us. What does that look like here at FCCW? How can we trust Christ together?

## Taking Gathered Worship Home

We are called to worship God all through the week. One way we do that is through daily devotionals. Please consider reading Scripture, praying, singing God's praise, and reflecting on God's truth each day this week. One great way to do that is through the use of the Advent Wreath. The questions and answers for the third week of Advent along with a Gospel reading from Luke, singing *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, and a closing prayer will help you focus on why Christ's coming (advent) was so important at Christmas and why we await His second coming still.

### The Third Week of Advent—December 16-22

#### The Shepherds' Candle

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candles?

**Family: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."**

Leader: What is the meaning of the third lighted candle?

**Family: The third candle is the Shepherds' candle signifying the Light of Joy that un-expectantly brightened the hearts of a humble band of shepherds at the announcement of Christ's birth.**

Leader: Who were the shepherds?

**Family: The Shepherds were a group of lowly men whose work was to watch over flocks of sheep. It was difficult work, often in solitude, and subject to the dangers of life in the wilds. They were often despised and rejected by others who did not value the type of work they did.**

Leader: What do the Gospels say concerning the shepherds?

**Family: Luke says, "In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly**

**frightened. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'**"

### Read aloud Luke 2:13-20

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

**Sing** *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* (words on back).

**Pray:** "Lord Jesus Christ, we give You all thanks and praise for Your victory over sin and death at the cross and the empty tomb. We bless You for redeeming us from the empty way of life we inherited from Adam and bringing us into a new life in Your family. We thank You for Your precious blood that was shed for us that we might be delivered from the dominion of darkness into Your glorious kingdom of light. We look forward with hope to Your return when we, with Your holy angels, will never cease to sing the wonders of Your glorious redemption. Amen."