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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

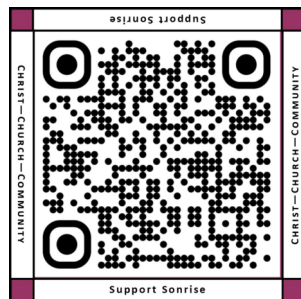
- ♦ Annual **CHRISTMAS SWEATER** Sunday December 14



- ♦ **Signup for refreshment** for Sunday Fellowship.
- ♦ **December 28**—Seeking Jesus workshop and Kickoff Sunday. 9 a.m. & 10 a.m.
- ♦ [Complete list of upcoming events at sonrisechurch.com/events.html](https://sonrisechurch.com/events.html)

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Directions are available



**Luke 2.1-20**

### God's Perfect Timing

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

- ♦ Caesar Augustus established the \_\_\_\_\_, a 200-year period of relative peace, fulfilling Daniel 2.44.
- ♦ The \_\_\_\_\_ dates the time and pushes Joseph and Mary to fulfill the O.T. prophecies.
- ♦ God is \_\_\_\_\_ over world events.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his BETROTHED, who was with child.

- ♦ 2 Samuel 7.12 -16 Messiah will come from \_\_\_\_\_ lineage.

- ♦ Matthew 1.1 17 Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_ to King David is shown in detail.
- ♦ Micah 5.2 The Messiah would be born in the small town of \_\_\_\_\_ .

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her **firstborn** son and wrapped him in **swaddling cloths** and laid him in a **manger**, because there was **no place** for them in the inn.

- ♦ Isaiah 7.14 A \_\_\_\_\_ giving birth.
- ♦ Matthew 1.23 \_\_\_\_\_ , which means God with us.
- ♦ Isaiah 53.2 grew up with... No form or \_\_\_\_\_ .



### First to Know

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were **FILLED WITH GREAT FEAR**.

- ♦ 1 Samuel 16.11 David was a \_\_\_\_\_ .



### **This week,**

**The Christmas season is about contrast. It is a season full of light in a world full of darkness.**

**MONDAY**— Read John 8.12, John 1.5, 1 John 1.5, Psalm 119.105, Matthew 5.14. What does light represent in the Bible? What are the promises associated with light?

**TUESDAY**— Read James 1.17, Isaiah 9.2, John 12.46, Romans 13.12, Ephesians 5.8. What does darkness represent in the scriptures? What are the fears associated with darkness?

**WEDNESDAY**— Read 1 Thessalonians 5.5, Matthew 5.16, Philemon 1.6, Colossians 1.13, Ephesians 5.14. How should believers view their lives when it comes to light and darkness? What qualities of a person's life would you see as existing as light and not being present in darkness?

**THURSDAY**— Read 2 Corinthians 6.14, John 3.19, Luke 11.35, Isaiah 50.10, Revelation 22.5. How do these scriptures point to the struggle and ways to be victorious over darkness?

**FRIDAY**— Read Psalms 27.1, Psalm 36.9, Habakkuk 3.4, Isaiah 60.20, Micah 7.8. How do these scriptures help us focus on God? How do they help us in our daily lives as we are surrounded by a dark and sinful world?

**BONUS** - Read Proverbs 4.18, Isaiah 58.10, 2 Samuel 22.29, Proverbs 6.23, Ephesians 1.18. How does God's light protect us? How does His light change how we live and minister?

- ◆ Where \_\_\_\_\_ rules
  - ◇ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitutes \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ ; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5.20



### **Living in Light means sharing the Light!**

- “You are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives \_\_\_\_\_ to all who are in the house. “Let your \_\_\_\_\_ shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5.14-16
- ◆ You are the \_\_\_\_\_ , and he is your \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - ◆ In the \_\_\_\_\_ of this world, you are called to share the \_\_\_\_\_ for all to see.

- ◆ Hebrews 13.20 Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_ .
- ◆ Glory of the Lord = HIS \_\_\_\_\_ and holiness.
- ◆ Meeting God often \_\_\_\_\_ people. Mary in Luke 1.29, Zechariah in Luke 1.12

And the angel said to them, “FEAR NOT, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

- ◆ Isaiah 41.10 God constantly reminds us not to be afraid because He is there with \_\_\_\_\_ .
- ◆ Philippians 4.4 “ \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord always. I will say it again: \_\_\_\_\_ !”
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Purpose, Power, Position

And this will be a SIGN for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “GLORY to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE among those with whom he is pleased!”

- ◆ Sign was to look for the \_\_\_\_\_ or supernatural. This relates to the concept of a \_\_\_\_\_ .
- ◆ An angelic army appears, declaring God’s \_\_\_\_\_ . These usually surround the throne of God. Here they declare His arrival to the shepherds. A command performance.

### First to Know, First to Go

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

- ♦ 1 Corinthians 1.27 “But God \_\_\_\_\_ the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God \_\_\_\_\_ the weak things of the world to shame the strong.”
- ♦ James 2.5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God \_\_\_\_\_ the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

### First to Know, First to Go & First to Share

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

- ♦ 1 Jn 1:1-3 What was from the beginning, what we have \_\_\_\_\_, what we have \_\_\_\_\_ with our eyes, what we have \_\_\_\_\_ at and \_\_\_\_\_ with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was \_\_\_\_\_ to us— what we have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.



### God's Choice

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- ♦ 1 Corinthians 1.27-29 but God has \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world to shame the wise, and God has \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world and the \_\_\_\_\_ God has \_\_\_\_\_, the things that are \_\_\_\_\_, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.

### A world full of darkness

- ♦ Living without the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ Jesus
  - ◇ Therefore, justice is far from us, And righteousness does not overtake us; We \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, but behold, \_\_\_\_\_, For \_\_\_\_\_, but we walk in \_\_\_\_\_. Isaiah 59.9