

SERMON NOTES
“The Heart of the Carols: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

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We tend to think of that first Christmas in terms of peacefully sleeping babies, reverent animals, and clean-cut, adoring shepherds.

But the reality is that the first Christmas was _____ and more like the _____ of our lives than what we often think.

The reality of Christmas:

The shepherds were _____ of the social ladder, and they were _____ when the angels showed up.

Joseph was a _____ working where Roman taxes ate up most of the money he would have to _____ this baby.

Mary was a _____ who didn't have any _____ around to help her know how to _____ this new baby.

God sent Jesus right into the _____ of Mary and Joseph's lives in order to bring salvation to their world.

The good news, part one: Matthew 11.28-30

God still shows up in the _____ of our lives in order to save and rescue us.

The good news, part two: Luke 24.13-35

Even after rescuing us, God continues to _____ to help in the messiness of our lives.