



Christmas Firsts

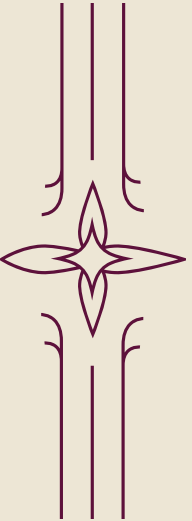
The First

Christmas Greeting

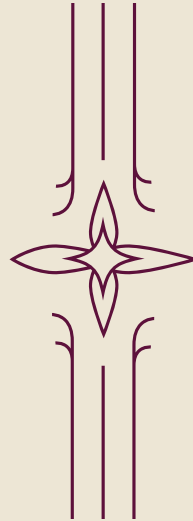
Luke 2:8-12

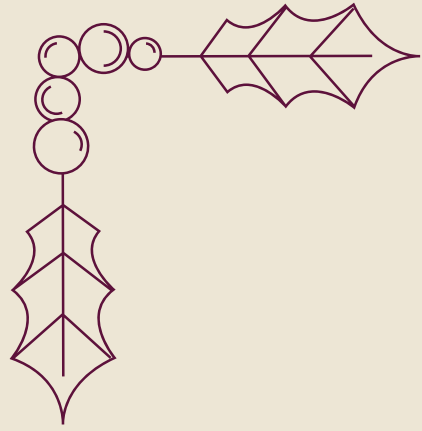


Key Point:

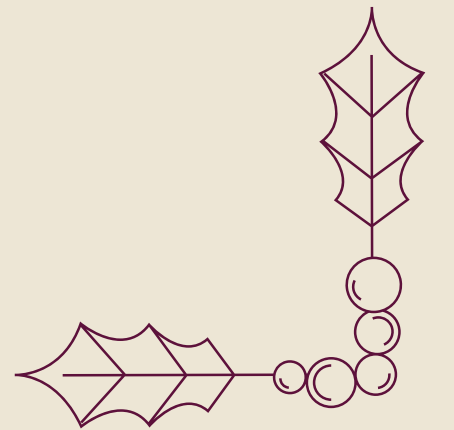


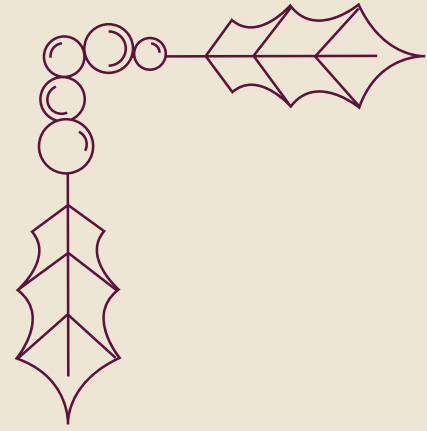
Jesus was welcomed to
earth by heaven.





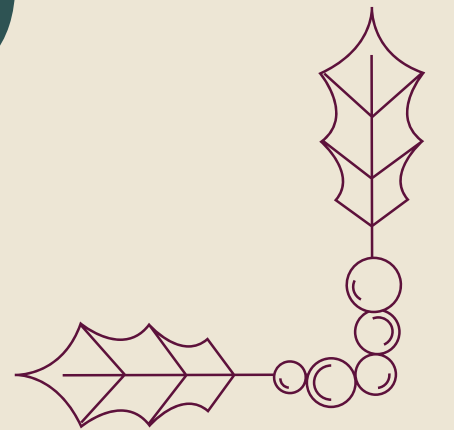
I. Who Greeted? (vs. 8-9)





Jesus as Shepherd

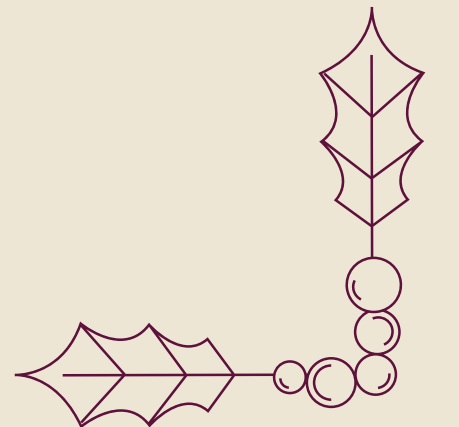
- a. The Great Shepherd (Heb 13:20)
- b. The Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14)
- c. The True Shepherd (Ezek 34:11-16)





How God Often Chooses His Instruments

- Moses - not a great public speaker
- Gideon - weakest member of the smallest tribe
- Daniel - a young teenager
- David - a young man





The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Isaiah 61:1



²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

I Corinthians 1:26-29



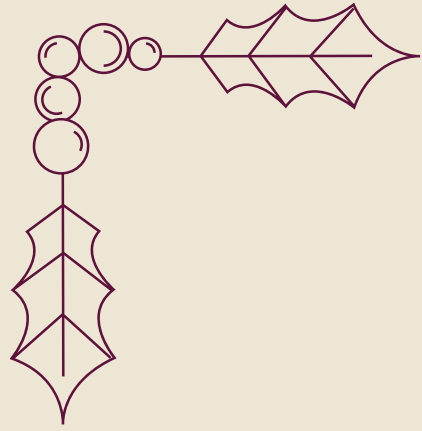
²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world,
even things that are not,
to bring to nothing things that are,
²⁹ so that no human being
might boast in the presence of God.

I Corinthians 1:26-29

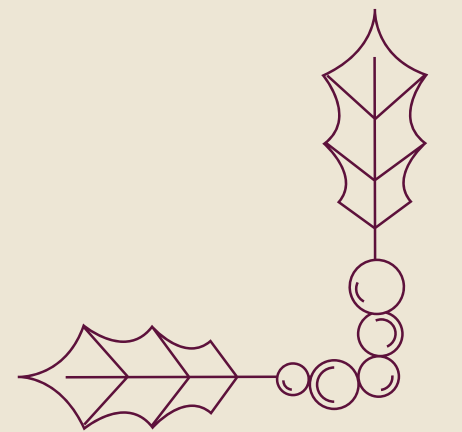
“The lower the
sinner,
the greater is
God’s glory
when He saves
him.”

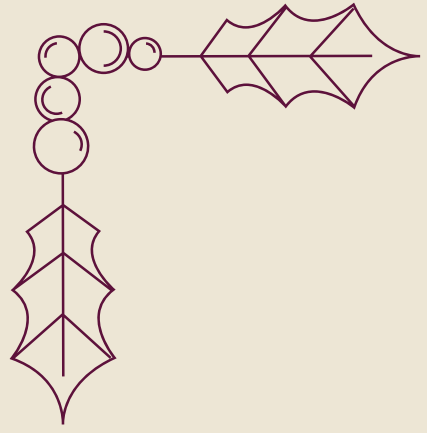


John Fullerton MacArthur Jr
19 June 1939 -

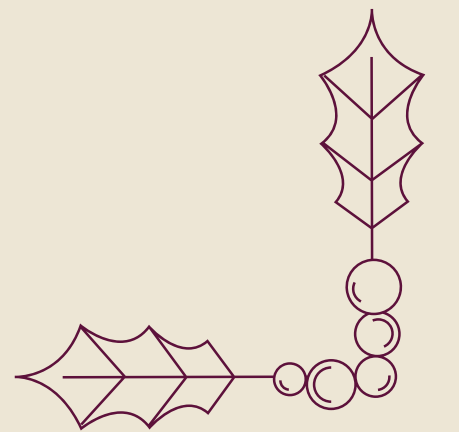


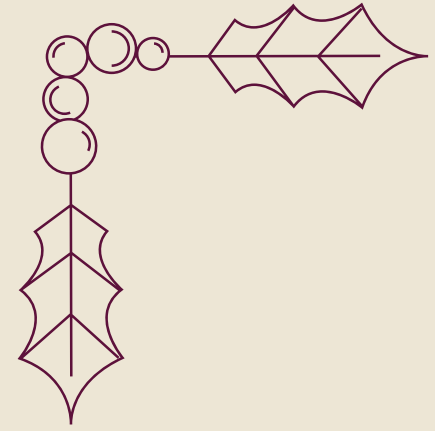
Shepherds in the Field





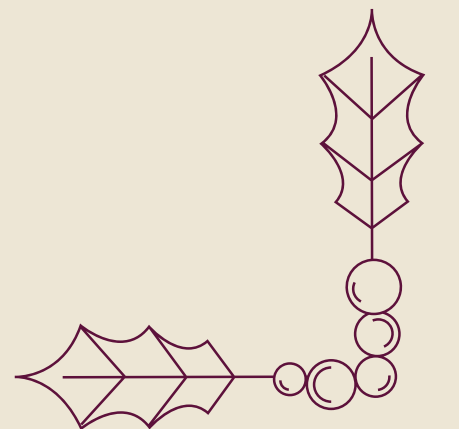
Shepherds in the Field

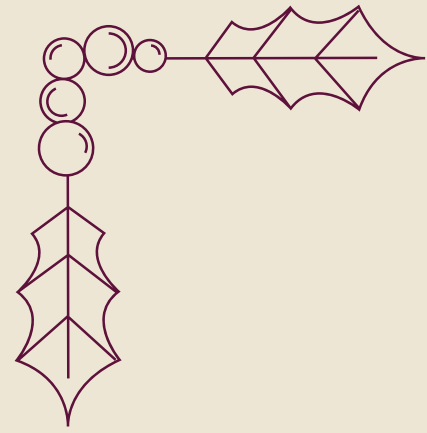




The Presence of God In Light Form

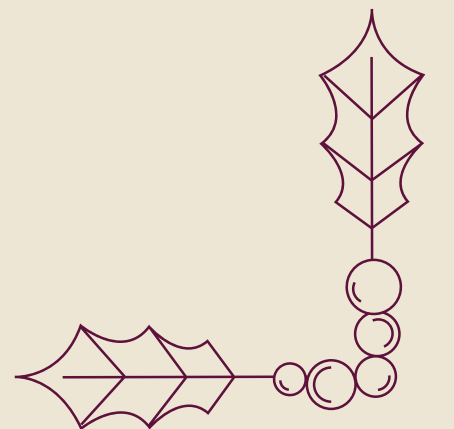
- a. How God appears to Moses at Mt. Sinai (Ex 24:16-17)
- b. The glory of the Lord that filled the tent of meeting (Ex 40:34-35)
- c. The glory of the Lord at the dedication of the Solomonic Temple (I Kings 8:10-11)
- d. Ezekiel's foretelling of the glory that would fill the Temple in the Millennium (Ezek 10)

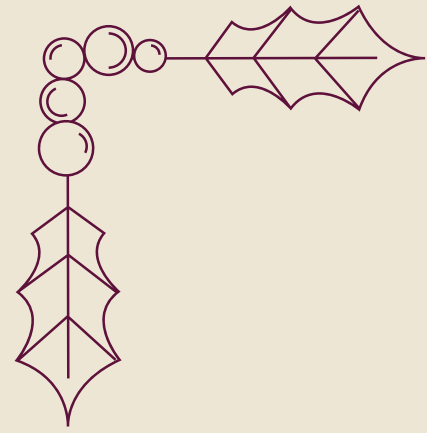




Fear and Angels

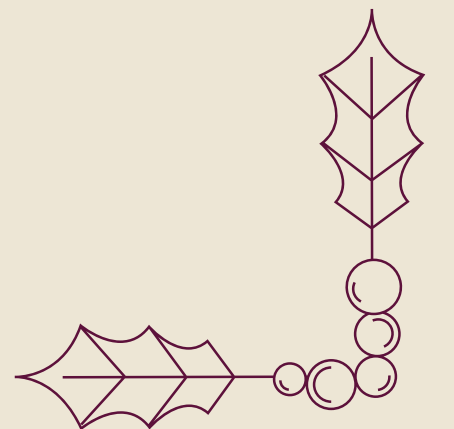
- a. Isaiah (Isa 6:5)
- b. Ezekiel (Ezek 1:28)
- c. Daniel (Dan 10:8)
- d. The disciples (Matt 17:6-7)
- e. The women who came to seek Jesus in the tomb
(Matt 28:4)
- f. Zechariah (Luke 1:12)

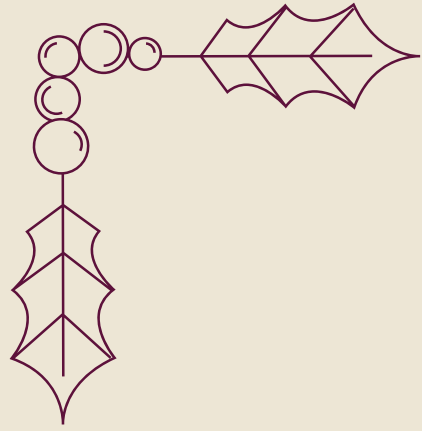




Fear and Angels

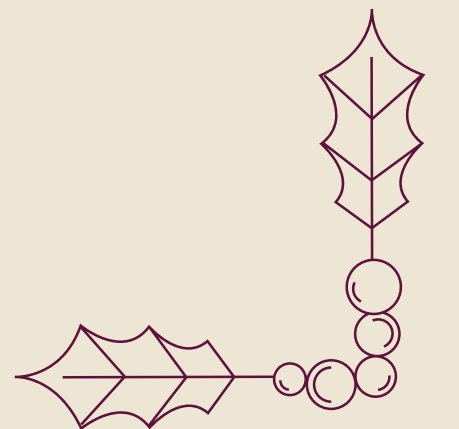
g. Mary was greatly troubled when encountered by the angel Gabriel who showed up to give her news about a divine conceiving. She was afraid even before the prophecy came (Luke 1:29) and didn't understand: "Why Her?"

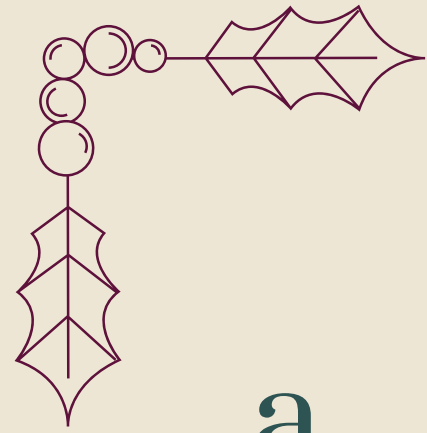




I. Who Greeted? (vs. 8-9)

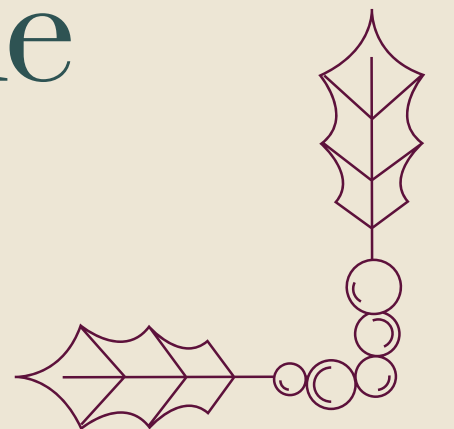
II. What Was The Greeting? (vs. 10-12)

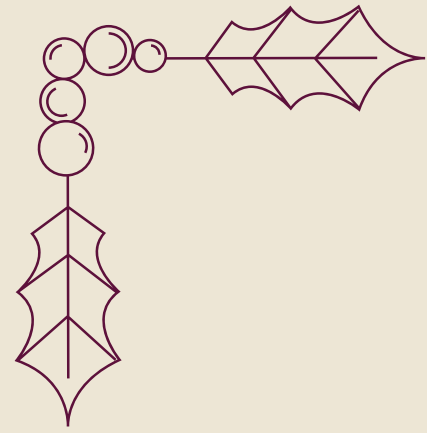




Angels and Their Help to Men

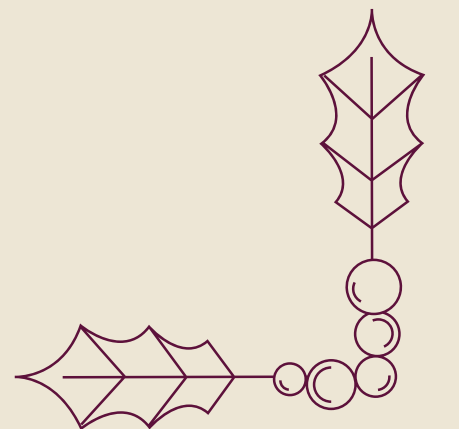
- a. The angel touching Isaiah and granting him forgiveness (Isa 6:7)
- b. The angel telling Ezekiel to stand up (Ezek 2:1)
- c. A word of encouragement to Daniel (Dan 10:10, 12)
- d. The disciples being told to not be afraid and stand up (Matt 17:7)
- e. No reason to fear because Jesus had risen from the dead (Matt 28:6)

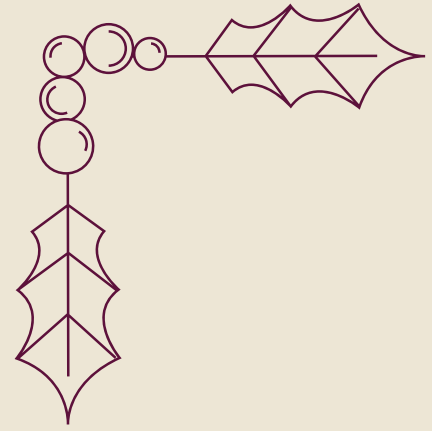




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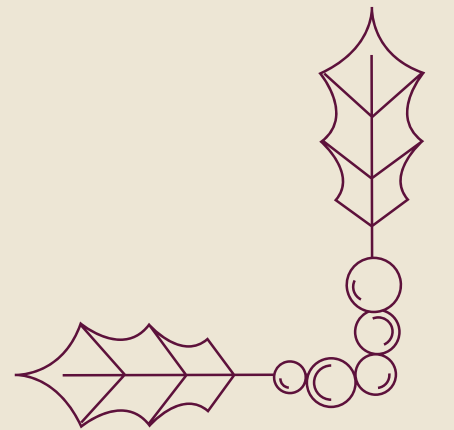
- f. No reason to fear for Zechariah (Luke 1:13)
- g. No reason to fear for Mary (Luke 1:30)
- h. No reason to fear for Abram (Gen 15:1)
- i. No reason to fear for Isaiah (Isa 43:1)

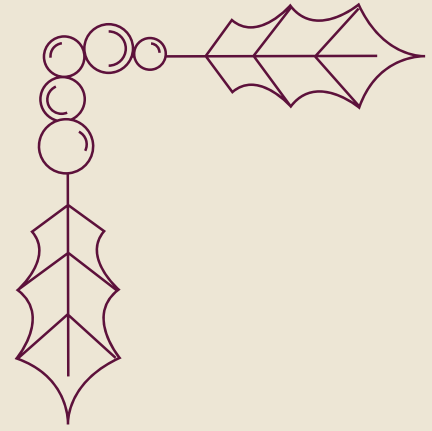




Breaking Down The Greeting

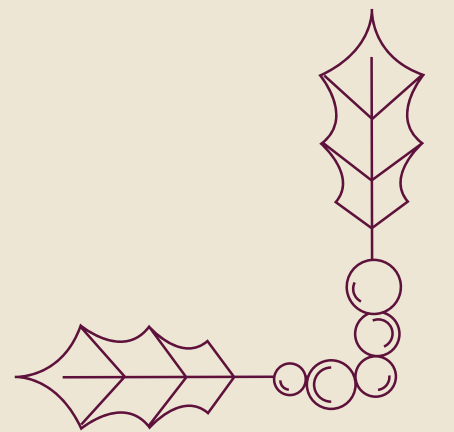
1. The greeting is for all people.

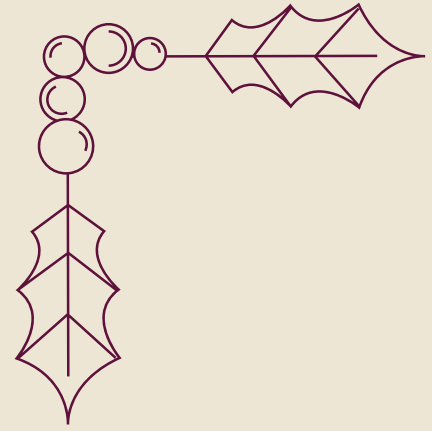




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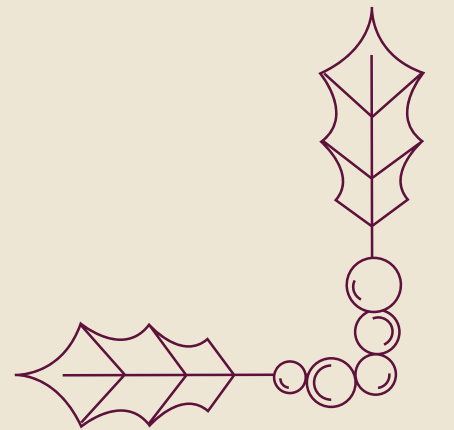
1. The greeting is for all people.
2. The greeting is certain.

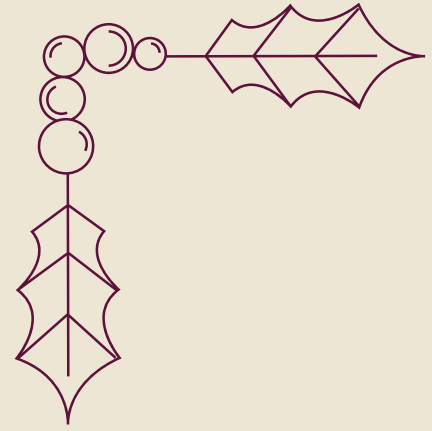




Breaking Down The Greeting

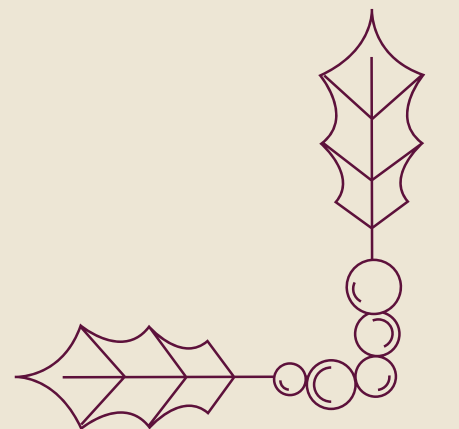
1. The greeting is for all people.
2. The greeting is certain.
3. The greeting is life saving.





Breaking Down The Greeting

1. The greeting is for all people.
2. The greeting is certain.
3. The greeting is life saving.
4. The greeting is verifiable.



“Where in all the neighborhood would an enswathed babe be lying in a manger – hence in a stable, not in the house proper, and even in the stable not in anything like a bed but on hay or straw in a manger? So great the babe, so lowly its condition. Even David’s city had only a manger for David’s eternal Heir.”



R.C.H. Lenski
14 Sept 1864 – 14 Aug 1936



⁷ but emptied himself, by taking
the form of a servant, being
born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:7