

*When the Shepherd 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. 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. (Luke 2. 17-20)*

In these few well-known verses from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus, we find three fascinating responses –

1. The shepherds spread the word. They tell people what has happened. They tell others what they have been told about this child; that is that this child is the Saviour, the Messiah, the one God's people have been longing for.
2. Mary treasures all these things and ponders them in her heart
3. The shepherds return, glorifying and praising God.

So here's a question: will our encounter with the Christ Child this Christmas – today! – elicit the same responses?

Will we tell people who Jesus is and what his birth actually means?

Will we give space and time to treasure the gift of Christ and ponder it in our hearts, what it means for us?

Will we come out of church praising God? Will the praises we sing in church echo in our lives after church, and through the week?

These three – sharing; treasuring; praising are the best ways of celebrating Christmas, of living Christ's story.

Share it with others.

Treasure it in your heart.

Give thanks to God.