

God in Unexpected Places

The Shepherds



“The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.” (Isaiah 40:5)



Theophany

God's Self-Revelation as One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Unexpectedly:

To Mary

To Shepherds

To Us

As Glory

The Mystery of the Trinity

God as “I Am Who I Am”

God as Immanuel (God with Us)

God as Wind, Breath, Spirit, Fire, Life, Energy

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the **glory** of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is **Christ the Lord**.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

(Luke 1:8–14)

Key Elements of the Theophany to the Shepherds:

God in the Highest

A Savior, Christ the Lord

Light, Life, Energy around the Shepherds

While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he – for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind –
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind:

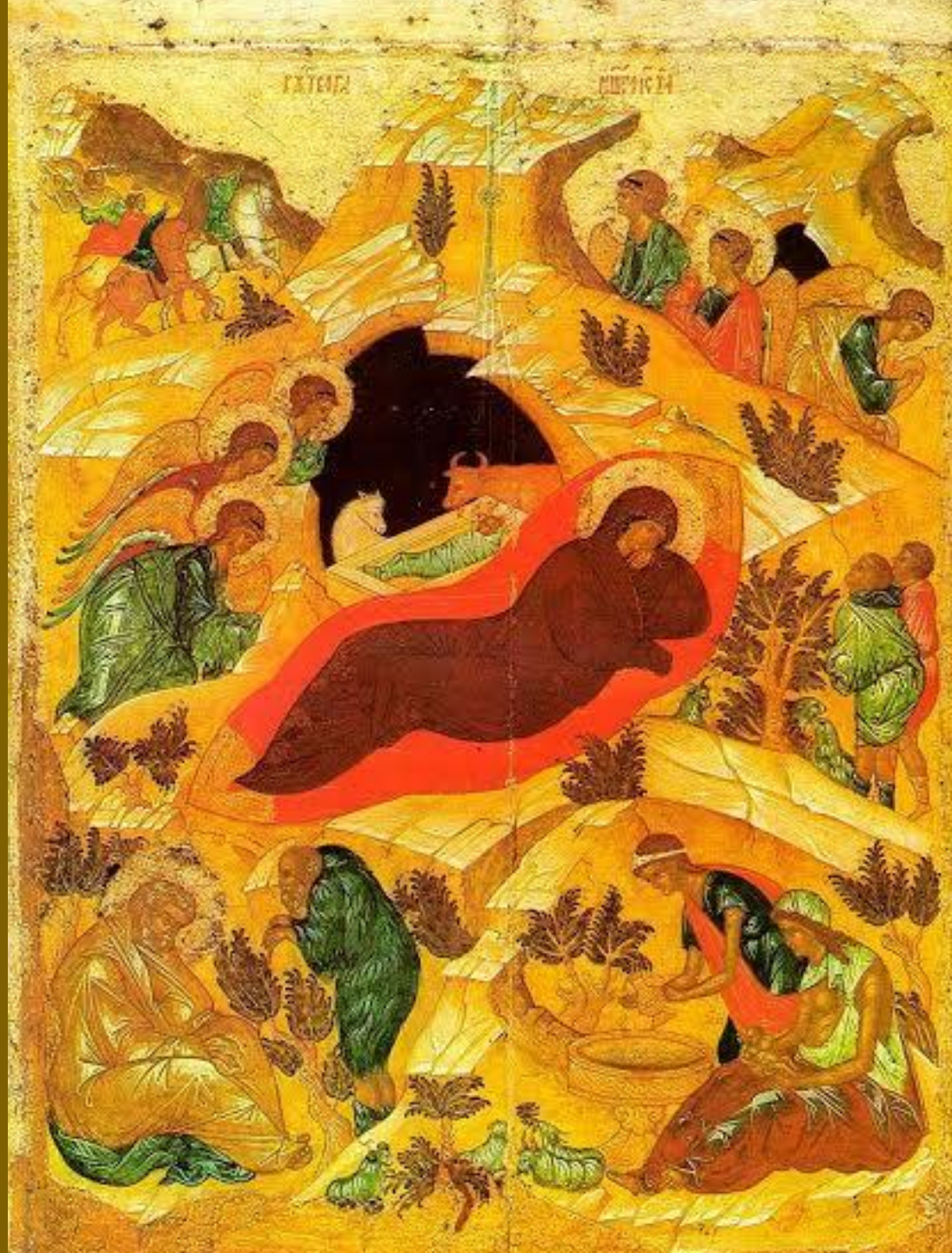
“To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven
begin and never cease!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wevr3Vt37Ec>









The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those who are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and
my own know me (John 10:14)

Henry Ossawa
Tanner, 1903



Henry
Ossawa
Tanner
1914



And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Luke 1:15–17

Peter said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17)

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCdZKB1z1Y4>