

## Hope vs. Disappointment

**“When I look at the state of our country and the world, I find it hard to maintain a positive outlook.”** That comment was made by a Wall Street Journal writer about findings in a recent Pew Research poll. The poll found that only 45% of Americans expressed a lack of confidence in their country’s future. The author himself stated, “...the 21<sup>st</sup> century has come as a deep disappointment.”

How far that statement is from the statements the Bible makes about the birth of Jesus for which this season we are entering is about. For instance take what the prophet Isaiah predicted of Jesus when he said, “And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Or consider what angels said to the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. Luke 2:14 records them saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

How can we as Christians talk of peace and hope when all around us there is unrest and unease? Our hope is not in our government or our military. Our hope is in the eternal Hope, Jesus Christ. Knowing Him brings peace even in the midst of conflict and disappointment. Jesus said this, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**Our mission as Christians is to spread the Good News that Jesus is the hope the world is looking for.** Every time you give here at OUR CHURCH you help spread that hope through all the ministry and mission work we do. Your gifts matter and together we can show the world hope.

Luke records this of the shepherds who visited Jesus, “When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.” This Christmas season let’s spread the word about the real reason for the season, Jesus. Start today with a generous gift to help us as a church do exactly that!