

**Message Outline**  
*Teaching Tradition:*  
*Christmas Cards*



**Luke 1-2**

**Intro:** This Advent, looking at the Biblical text behind some Christmas traditions...

- Preaching on traditions of cards, colors, carols, candy canes...
- History behind Christmas cards...
  - Sir Henry Cole...
  - Card to stir compassion...
  - Notable cards today...
- God's Word described as a "Love Letter" from God...
  - "Special deliveries" that lead into the unfolding of Christmas...

**Special Delivery #1:** *A Message Marked for Zachariah/Elizabeth (Lk. 1:5-25)*

**Special Delivery #2:** *A Message Marked for Mary (Lk. 1:26-38)*

**Special Delivery #3:** *A Message Marked for the Shepherds (Lk. 2:8-20)*

**The Message thru the Mail**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Elderly/godly couple (Zechariah/Elizabeth), young/unwed teenage girl (Mary), unnamed/untamed men (shepherds)...
  - God uses all kinds!!!
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - God's purpose for each person was personalized...
    - Zechariah/Elizabeth: produce a prophet
    - Mary: mother the Son of God
    - Shepherds: tell their story/witness
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - The message points to a relationship...

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Hope



<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, following that distress,  
"the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."  
<sup>26</sup> "At that time people will see the Son of Man  
coming in clouds with great power and  
glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his  
elect from the four winds, from the ends of the  
earth to the ends of the heavens.  
<sup>28</sup> "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon  
as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you  
know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you  
see these things happening, you know that it is  
near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this  
generation will certainly not pass away until all  
these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth  
will pass away, but my words will never pass  
away.  
<sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not  
even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only  
the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not  
know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It's like a man  
going away: He leaves his house and puts his  
servants in charge, each with their assigned task,  
and tells the one at the door to keep watch.  
<sup>35</sup> "Therefore keep watch because you do not know  
when the owner of the house will come back—  
whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when  
the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes  
suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What  
I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"  
-Mark 13:24-37 NIV