

Sermon handout 20th December 2020

God has explained himself

Luke 1.26-38

How Luke writes the story of Jesus

Luke 1.1-4 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those from the first were eye witnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

The facts are there, and God explains them:

1. God explains the who, what and why of baby Jesus

Jesus fully man and fully God

Jesus is God with us

Luke 19.44: They will dash you to the ground, Jerusalem, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you didn't recognise the time of God's coming to you.

2. God explains how we are to understand Jesus's mother

Luke 1.41-42 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice, she exclaimed, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!'

3. God explains Jesus's purpose and mission in the world

Luke 1.54-55: God my saviour has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors.

God has kept the binding promise he made to our ancestors, the New Testament continues the Old.

Luke 24.44-48: Jesus said to his disciples, "This is what I told you when I was still with you; everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

This gospel is entrusted to the church – what shall we do?