Use the message notes and <u>Discussion Guide</u> to dive deeper into this message from Pastor Eric Gilbert. This message premiered 1215/2024 on <u>3trees.Online.Church</u> and the <u>3trees</u> <u>Church Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.

You can download the <u>DISCUSSION GUIDE</u> here: "High & Nigh"

Anchor Text:

Luke 2:10-14 (KJV) 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."

1. JESUS IS GOD MOST HIGH

Isaiah 55:9 (NLT) "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts, declares the Lord."

Key Thought: God's ways and thoughts are infinitely higher than ours.

Illustration:

Light travels 186,000 miles/second. In the snap of a finger, it circumnavigates Earth six times. Galaxies are 15.5 billion light-years away, yet God compares that distance to the gap between our thoughts and His thoughts.

Isaiah 40:28 (NIV) "The LORD is the everlasting God... His understanding no one can fathom."

Ephesians 3:20 (CSB) "Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us."

2. JESUS IS GOD MOST NIGH

Matthew 1:23 (NLT) "She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

Key Thought: Jesus is not just Most High; He is Most Nigh – always near.

Encouragement:

If you are:

• **Discouraged**: Look within. ¹

Illustration: George Whitefield's humility (false accusations).

• **Distracted:** Look around.

Illustration: The lion tamer's stool – distraction paralyzes.

• **Disappointed:** Look back.

Illustration: Paderewski playing alongside "Chopsticks." God whispers: "Keep going; don't quit."

• **Dismayed**: Look ahead.

Illustration: The repeated sermon – live the message before expecting something new.

If you want to be delivered, look to Jesus

Psalm 145:18 (KJV) "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him..."

James 4:8 (NLT) "Come close to God, and God will come close to you..."

Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT) "I will give you a new heart... and take out your stony, stubborn heart."

Key Takeaway:

- Jesus is both God Most High and God Most Nigh.
- Draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you.