Passage Background and Summary
“Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first,[a] to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.”

~ Luke 1:1-4 NRSV

As Pastor Warnock mentioned in the sermon, the Biblical passage for today is the prologue of Luke. Luke recognizes that many have set out to give an account of the events in the life of Jesus and sets out to do so as well, writing to Theophilus.

Sermon Points
This season of Advent is the time of anticipation, and Christmas is on the way. Many are focused on what has been considered the greatest story ever told, the story of God coming down to dwell with us. It is the story of a baby named Jesus. Yet, Pastor Warnock did not come to tell the story but to celebrate the fact that the story was told at all. Luke recognizes that the story has been told before but sets out to tell what the story means to him. Some may be wondering why Pastor Warnock chose to preach on the prologue in Luke. It’s because too many have failed to take our own stories seriously and consider our story in relation to the greater story. Luke is willing to testify to who God is to him and what the story means to him. We tend to conflate (to combine/blend) the gospel accounts as one story, but we need each of them. They don’t all tell the same story, and it is important to hear all parts and all versions of the story. Matthew and Luke are the only two who include the birth story, and Luke is the one that includes the angel speaking to Mary herself. Without Luke, we wouldn’t know how Mary visited Elizabeth. Luke has a way of lifting up the voices of the women and the marginalized. We would not know about the prophets waiting to witness the baby Jesus in the Temple and other important details that are unique to Luke. Similarly, we also should tell the story. The greatest story ever told is not the Christmas story but the intersection between that story and our own story. It is the story of when you heard the gospel. Pastor Warnock came to remind us of the love of God that came to liberate us. It is a story that he can’t help but tell over and over again. It is the story of what the Christmas story means to us, our testimony, that is important.
Reflection Questions

1. What are some of the differences in the gospels as it relates to the life of Jesus and the story of Jesus’s birth?
2. What is the significance of Luke including details such as the angel speaking to Mary or Mary visiting Elizabeth?
3. In your own words, what is the Christmas story and how does it relate to your life?
4. What is your testimony? What is “the greatest story ever told” as it pertains to your life?
5. What are other stories that you’ve heard that are important to you or have played a significant role in your life?