

Christmas Eve Service

A Celebration of His Birth

December 24, 2015 Pastor F. Calvin Miller Color: Purple

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 9:6-8

Leader: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

Congregation: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father the Prince of Peace.

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

Congregation: upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. Amen

PROCESSION AND ILLUMINATION:

 **HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs 1-3 HYMN # 234**

PRAYER of INVOCATION: Pastor Cal

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH (*see insert*)

The Fifth Candle; The Christ Candle, the Light of His Birth

HYMN :

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" vs 1&3 HYMN # 220

LUKE 1:5-24 'Gabriel Speaks to Zechariah and Elizabeth'

"Sleep Little Lamb" by Joseph Martin

Sung by: Katie Richtarsik and Dakota Wood

LUKE 1:26-36: 'Gabriel Speaks to Mary'

MATHEW 1:18-24: 'Gabriel Speaks to Joseph'

HYMN: "What Child Is This" all verses HYMN # 219

LUKE 2:1-7 MICAH 5:2: 'Born in Bethlehem according to Prophecy'
HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verses 1&4 HYMN #230

OUR GIFTS TO GOD ARE CALLED FORTH:

Invitation

Offerings to God,

Choir Anthem: "Waiting For a King" by Joseph Martin

Flutist: Nicole Fleming

 **Doxology (95)**

 **Prayer of Dedication**

MOMENTS of PRAYER & MEDITATION

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (in unison):

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 2:8-20: 'The Scene at the Manger'

Choir Anthem: "Celebrate the Promise" by Joseph Martin

 **Candle Lighting**

 **HYMN: "Silent Night, Holy Night" all verses (insert)**

BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE

 **All who are able please join together as we stand as one**

Thank you for turning off your cell phones and bringing only water into the sanctuary☺

Advent Candle Lighting Reflections 2014

Christmas Eve: December 24

The Christ Candle



The fifth candle is white and is called the Christ Candle. We light this on Christmas Eve. We see the purity and beauty of our Lord being born in a manger, a barn. Christ is the lamb that was slain for the sins of the world. It is His purity that allows his sacrifice to wash our sins away and give us eternal life.

Scripture Reading:

Hear these words from Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from the Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Light the Christ Candle

The Christmas story reading continues

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see –

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

The Christmas story reading is continued

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:1-20)

Declaration of Faith

Have you opened the greatest gift? Have you received Christ as your Savior?

ALL: Let us open our hearts and receive. COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.



Thank You to this weeks, Dec. 24th Volunteers

Greeters:

Ushers:

United Parish of Winchendon

Pastor F. Calvin Miller

December 24, 2015

December 27th 2015

Greeters: Scott & Heather Nasiatka

Ushers: John & James Joslin

Co-leader: S. Mark Price

Pastor: F. Calvin Miller

Senior Deacon: S. Mark Price

Director of Music: Jayne Thompson

Children's Ministry: Brandy Wood

Youth Minister Pastor: Jerry McKean

Office Administrator: Merrily Stone & Cheri Comer

Church Sexton: James Lemmer

Nursery Attendant: Kate Richtarcsik

Visit our website at www.unitedparish.com

Office Phone: 978.297.0616

Office Hours: Monday 8am – 1pm

Tuesday 8am – 1pm

Thursday 8am – 1pm

Friday 8am – 1pm

Pastor Cal's Cell phone: 978.828.4706

Email: unitedparish@comcast.net

