

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## PRELUDE- "Selected"

May the joy of God's bright promise- the Advent of His Son-  
Live evermore within each heart and comfort everyone.  
May the faith of old time prophets, be with you where you are.  
May the truth of God's own word remain your Christmas star.

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.  
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.  
That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."  
Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold the dwelling of God is with us, The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever."

\*CAROL- "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #188

### \*INVOCATION

### SCRIPTURE- Hebrews 1:1-5, 10-12

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and

expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names. The Son Is Greater Than the Angels. For God never said to any angel what he said to Jesus: "You are my Son. "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but you remain forever. They will wear out like old clothing. You will fold them up like a cloak and discard them like old clothing. But you are always the same; you will live forever."

CAROL- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #191

### OFFERTORY- "Selected"

#### \*DOXOLOGY

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Loving God, with joyful hearts we thank you for the miracle of Christmas. We praise you for our heritage of Christmas devotion, beginning with the music of the angels and the poetry composed by the earliest witnesses of your incarnation. But let us remember Jesus not only as a baby but as our savior, who suffered with us, died for us and, by your power, rose to new and deathless life. For him, above all, do we offer you praise this Christmas Eve. AMEN.**

\*CAROL- "Away in a Manger" #213

### TEXT- Luke 18:17

I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

## MESSAGE

### THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The minister will pass the light from the Christ Candle to the Deacons who will in turn pass the light to the first person at the end of each pew saying: "The peace of Christ be with you," and each in response will say, "And also with you." They in turn will pass the light to the person sitting next to them. Please dip the UNLIT candle into the lit one.

\*CAROL- "Silent Night, Holy Night"

#189

\*BENEDICTION

\*CAROL- "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

#194

(Please follow the Deacons' directions for exiting, carrying the light out to the Narthex symbolizing carrying the Christ light out into the world)

**A joyous and blessed Christmas to one and all.**

## **The Village Congregational Church United Church of Christ**

*December 24, 2009*

*5:00 PM Service*



