

**"His Unspeakable Gift"** The foolish religious leaders mocking Jesus, cried out, "He saved others, He can not save himself!" The place was just out side Jerusalem on a hill called the skull. These blind leaders were right on one hand, yet they very wrong on the other hand. They were wrong in that Jesus rose from the dead and in glory showed himself as the very Son of God. The religious crowd was right in that Jesus could not save himself from the cross and still provide our salvation. **The cross represented the "cup" that Jesus had to drink. In the mind of God, Jesus the Messiah had to identify with our sins, our pain, our suffering. It was for this that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem.** His birth was a special birth, because God Himself was entering into the human race through the avenue of a virgin's womb. Jesus' humanity was prepared we are told by the Holy Spirit. He was the promised seed of the woman that would crush Satan's head. The world into which Jesus was born was a cruel and evil one, not unlike ours. The only gospel writers in the New Testament that record the birth of Jesus are Matthew and Luke. Matthew tells of kings coming to worship Jesus. Matthew is interested in the reader knowing that Jesus himself is a King. On the other hand, Luke, the gentile writer and associate of the Apostle Paul, tells of shepherds coming to worship Jesus on the same night that Jesus was born. The shepherd was a common man, no royalty, a hard working "field" hand, who tended the livestock. The life of a shepherd was routine and predictable. Most of us have lives that are mundane, ordinary. Jesus made an incredible difference in the lives of these shepherds. **Yes, some wise kings did come to Jesus the Messiah, they returned to carry out their "kingships" in their own lands with the knowledge that God was now with them. *But the shepherds took their good news of great joy back to the fields with them; they took faith with them.* They still had to go back to their places in life. They had to finish their years out as shepherds and die. Though they were ordinary shepherds, these shepherds could never be the same; they had found the Messiah, the saviour of the world! *The stars, the fields, the mountains, the sheep, all would now be different in the shepherds' eyes! With the Christ of Christmas in one's heart, the life of an ordinary person becomes exceptional!*** Christmas means more than the world can imagine. Jesus makes an ordinary life an adventure!

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## *Christmas Eve Service*

### *Opening Prayer*

*Scripture Luke 2:8-12*

*Special Music Mary Did You Know*

*Hymn# 279 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*Scripture Luke 2:13-14*

*Special Music O Holy Night*

*Hymn# Let There Peace on Earth*

*Scripture: Luke 2:15-20*

*Special Music Still the Greatest Story Ever Told*

*Sermon For Unto us a Son is Born*

*Special Music All Is Well*

*Hymn #253 Silent Night! Holy Night! (Lighting of the candles)*

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## *Sermon Notes*

I. God chose to announce the birth to folks who \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (8) Luke 1:51-53 Exodus  
40:34-35 2 Chronicles 5:14

1. This hope was for each of them personally. John 1:29
2. They are told the long-awaited \_\_\_\_\_ has  
been born. Isaiah 9:6-7
3. They are told that God is visiting earth. I Timothy 3:16 1  
John 1:1-2

II. The Angels \_\_\_\_\_ for His gift. (13-14)

1. We have received the gift of humility. Philippians 2:5-8 Luke  
2: 7. Hebrews 2:16-18 James 4:6;10 1 Peter 5:6-8 <sup>6</sup>
2. We have received the gift of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 11:28-30. Psalm 23

### **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me. Let there  
be peace on earth The peace that was meant to be. With God  
as our **Father Brothers** all are we. **Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony.** Let peace begin with me Let this be the  
moment now. With every step I take Let this be my solemn  
vow. To take each moment And live each moment In peace  
eternally. Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me.  
(Inspirational submitted by: Chaplain Tommy W. Smith)