

Good evening everyone, and welcome!

We all love stories, and tonight we will be telling The Christmas Story. It is important for children to know the story. Its meaning grows deeper each time we hear it and as we grow in maturity and in faith.

God in all God's glory comes to us in a baby, just like all of us. We will assemble the nativity scene as the story unfolds. Feel free to explain and talk to your children about the story; but also listen to what they say.

Like the faith and trust of the children, our faith and trust are things we all need to hone, refresh, grow, and maybe bring back into our own lives on our faith journey with God and each other.

Let us enjoy our journey together!

Thank you to Thomas Kurtz for his music this evening for this service.

Prelude *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

Greeting

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

People: O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Pastor: Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

All: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Opening Prayer

A Little About Advent and Our Advent Wreath

The Christmas Story

The Stable and the Animals - - *What is a stable and what is it for? What is a manger?*

Carol *"The Friendly Beasts"*

Arriving into Bethlehem - - *Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?*

Carol *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Finding the Stable - - *Why did Mary and Joseph need to find a stable?*

Carol *"Away In a Manger"*

Here we light the Christ candle. It is the big white one in the Advent wreath.

Meanwhile, Out In the Fields... - - *Somehow, shepherds out tending their sheep heard about Jesus being born!! How did THAT happen??*

Carol *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

Other Visitors from Far Away - - *AND, there were others who came from a great distance just to meet Jesus. How did they get there?*

Carol *"We Three Kings"*

Responsive Reading

Pastor: So WHY Do We Celebrate CHRISTMAS?

People: Because it is Jesus' Birthday and we always want to remember that.

Pastor: We also want to remember to thank God for sending Jesus to us.

People: And when we celebrate Christmas, we SING like the angels, we WONDER like the shepherds, and we GIVE GIFTS like the three wise men and also like God, who gave us the best gift of all which was JESUS!!

Lighting of the Glow Sticks

Carol *"Silent Night"*

*Carol *"Joy to the World!"*

***Benediction**



Thanks to First UMC in Phoenixville, PA for the inspiration and some of the text for this evening's service. Used with permission from Rev. R. Mark Young, Pastor of FUMC, Phoenixville PA.

Here is a color page just for you!
Merry Christmas, and



Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Christmas Eve Service for
Families with Children
of ALL Ages*

*Brand New to 102+!



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