

Christmas Eve Message
“Waking Up to Wonder”
(Luke 2:1–20)

Christmas Eve invites us to see the familiar story with fresh eyes. In Luke’s Gospel, the first people to hear the good news of Jesus’ birth are not kings or priests but a group of weary shepherds, half-asleep under the night sky. They are ordinary people doing ordinary work when heaven suddenly breaks in. An angel announces “good news of great joy for all people,” and in that moment, the shepherds awaken to a new reality: God has come near.

This year’s message, “*Waking Up to Wonder*,” reminds us that the birth of Christ still stirs sleeping hearts. Just as the shepherds were startled awake by the glory of God, we too can awaken from the weariness and noise of the world to rediscover reverence, humility, and awe. The angel’s words—“a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”—name what our restless world most needs: a Rescuer, a Ruler, and a Redeemer who holds all things together.

The shepherds believed the message, ran to Bethlehem, and shared what they had seen. They became the first witnesses to God’s greatest act of love. Their story reminds us that faith begins with openness—the willingness to look up, to be awed again, and to act on what we have seen and heard.

Christmas is more than memory; it is an awakening. When we encounter Christ, we wake up to reverence because the infinite became an infant. We wake up to humility because the Highest stooped to the lowest. And we wake up to awe because the Light still shines in our darkness.

As we lift our candles and sing “Silent Night,” may we, like the shepherds, go out rejoicing—awake to wonder, alive with hope, and carrying the peace of Christ into every place we go.