



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

December 24, 2009

## Christmas Eve

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the world

Most children were excited most all the boys and girls.

Most moms and dads had presents all ready.

A tree the food a plan that was steady.

Yet in some corners of the world there were some not so lucky,

the hungry the homeless. Yes even here in Kentucky.

Christmas is marketed as the season of giving. It tells of presents but not of our living.

On a cold winter's night in a stable so bare, god did something wonderful there

An unmarried couple, a pregnant teen,

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

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unknowing that one day in heaven she will be queen.

Homeless, and friendless and late in the night, a heart of compassion saw the predicament and plight.

To a stable he brought them a candle for light, the animals looked on but they did not show fright.

The angels they came and they visited the earth

ready to herald the news of a birth.

To lowly shepherds, by their religion outcast.

Made to feel worthless, made to feel last.

To them angels came and not to the leaders. I hope this resounds with all of the readers.

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This birth is not just for the rich and the wealthy. This birth is for the poor and those not so healthy.

To tell of gods love did the angels come that night. Not just for some but for everyone in god's sight.

God has a vision that can see all the earth. That means god loves all people- all people on earth

In 2000 years we have seen things that have changed.

The world is different, much has been rearranged.

But nothing has changed in the hearts of gods children

There is still a seed of love that has to be broken.

Broken to grow and broken to expand. To show the gift of love to all in the land

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To stop being judges, one of another, to understand deeply you're my sister and brother

Regardless of color, of sex, or of race

To love one another is the gift of grace

A gift that was given on a cold winter's night, to all of gods children whatever there plight.

For unto us a son is born, unto us a savior given. Unto us hope was created that here on earth could be like heaven.

But it just doesn't happen it just doesn't start, until the gift of this baby gets a place in your heart.

To live your life fully in the way of Christ, in the way of love, that's the only price.

A price that's been paid a gift that is free. A gift that was given in a stable and on a tree.

Tonight we are called once again to see

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The love that god has for you and me.

And look around to see each other. You are looking at gods children your sisters and brothers.

Imperfect and sinful, gossipy and vain, no matter the condition we love them the same

We all are like shepherds in some ways outcast, but the angels still tell us we are first and not last.

So tonight is of god, of a mom and a dad, a baby who grew up to tell us we are not bad.

To tell us god loves us with all of his heart, and if we love one another will have done our part.

And now a final note to you at St. Johns, to Versailles and Woodford and the lands beyond

Take care of yourselves, be earnest to pray. Remember love is not to be kept but to be given away.

Be faithful in giving much of yourselves

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To all whom you meet and not just the elves (could not think of anything else to rhyme)

Be open and honest. Be accepting and forgiving, show the people you meet Christ's way of living.

Be kind and compassionate, be loving and caring. Do not withhold but have abundance in sharing.

Take care of yourselves as you take care of each other -remember the commandment love one another.

With Christ in our hearts the future is bright

So to all may god bless you and to all a goodnight

Amen

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