

## **The Message for Christmas Eve 2010**

**Luke 2:8-20**

*The Christmas Message*

**The Rev. Dr. R. K. Miller**

I was looking through some Christmas cards at CVS this week and one card read: “Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of year do you sit around staring at a dead tree in your living room eating candy out of your socks?”

Christmas *is* pretty weird...

- \* A virgin becomes pregnant
- \* Her baby will save us from our sins
- \* It's Jesus' birthday and we get the presents
- \* Angels sing and the message is shared
- \* Shepherds visit the stable and give glory to God
- \* God is one of us and wants to live with us forever.

Weird stuff! Then again – the supernatural always seems weird. Miracles are weird. I suppose – if miracles happened all the time, we would have called them ordinaries. The miracle of Christmas *is* pretty weird.

All of our readings tonight remind us that Jesus is God's gift for life. The Christmas message we share is that this baby born in the manger is YOUR Savior, YOUR King, YOUR Christ, YOUR gift – straight from God. Just for you...

Gifts are to be opened and shared. And when we do they make a difference in our lives. An unwrapped gift under our Christmas tree would never happen.

Have you ever received a weird gift – not sure what to do with it or how to use it? Somebody gave me this weird gift... (put on the snowman head band). Now – I ask you what am I going to do with a weird gift like this? Wear it, I guess...

When I think of all the possible gifts that God could give us – God has given us a pretty weird gift – a baby lying in a manger. What are we going to do with this gift from God – named Jesus?

Might I suggest – we not leave Jesus in the manger. That would be like an unwrapped gift left under the tree. Jesus is the perfect gift for every occasion, for every situation, for every possibility. Take him with you wherever you go and let him make a difference in you life.

The Christmas message is this – Jesus was born for you, take him with you wherever you go. May he light up your world bringing you hope and wholeness. May God's glory shine in you and through you. May the light and grace of Christ be yours this night and the whole year through. Merry Christmas! Amen.