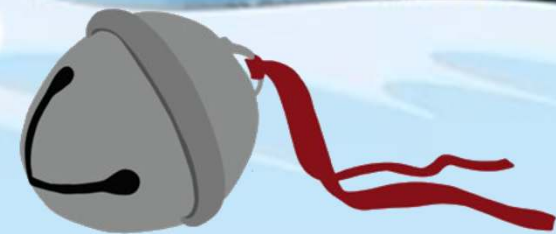




*Parkview*  
Christian Church  
*Merry Christmas*





# Finding Faith in Christmas

*The Bells Still Ring for  
All Who Truly Believe*













## *The Christmas Know It All*

**We know the story so very well so we can nitpick over the details**

**We begin to look for hidden meanings or even debate the details of the story**

**That is the unfortunate thing, we are so busy trying to be Christmas smart that we miss the Christmas miracle**





*So just for moment let's stop  
sweating the details of the story  
and see what we can learn about  
God and our faith*







## *God Showed Up!*

**While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.**

**Luke 2:6-7**





# *God Showed Up!*

**It's not about a virgin  
gave birth**

**The Shepherds and  
Wisemen don't even  
get names**



**Joseph did not even get a speaking  
line**







## *The Point of Christmas*

**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.**

**Luke 2:10-11**





# God Stuck to the Plan

**Luke 2:1-6**







# *God Stuck to the Plan*

**The idea behind the prophecies was to let the Israelites know their Messiah had come**

**God could have done this anyway he wanted, but God had a plan**

**That plan contained people, places, events and circumstances**



*and God Stuck to the Plan!*





## *From the Manger to the Cross*

**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**Romans 5:6-8**







## *God Sent Out Invitations*

**Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”**

**Luke 2:13-15**





## *God Sent Out Invitations*

**Angels for the Shepherds and a star for the Maji**

**While Jesus came into the world as a baby God made sure people knew he was not just any baby**

**While humanity hustled and bustled about their life the heavenly host sang out the news**

**While the world did not understand  
God's light had arrived the heaven  
proclaimed come and worship**







## *Not All Saw it as “Good News”*

**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.**

**Matthew 2:1-3**





## *Not All Saw it as “Good News”*

**The news did not bring about rejoicing, instead it provoked fear, lies and even murder**

**When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.**

**Matthew 2:16**



*Taking Christ out of Christmas*





## *You had to Respond*

**So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.**

**Mary and Joseph had to Go**

**Luke 2:16**

**The Shepherds had to come**

**The Magi had to follow**

**In the Gospels, anybody that approached Jesus about being a follower, Jesus gave them a to do**





## *Go and Tell*

**When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.**

**“People were Amazed”**

**Luke 2:17**

**How many of them took to time to see for themselves?**

**Come face to face with an amazing God**







*There is still a lot we can learn from Christmas*

