

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“O Holy Night”

Based on Luke 2:6

And so it is that we find ourselves at the manger, or find ourselves back at the manger once again. What is it about the rhythm of our faith journey that brings us back to this story?

For all that we stylize it these days, it was not an easy time.

- Mary was young, and her story was filled with mystery and scandal.
- Bethlehem was a small, rough village of shepherds and gossips.
- The stable was crude, drafty and, cramped.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born.

~Luke 2:6

The cycle of new life began its ancient rhythm as it has from the beginning of time.

- Medicine and science can tell you the steps of birth.
- Mystery and wonder surround the innate ability of our bodies to

know what to do and when.

All we have to do, is surrender to that mystery and wonder.

Surrender.

Today we use the word to mean things like ‘give up’ or ‘to lose’. In war, those who surrender have lost the fight. Defeated. But that’s not what surrender means in the biblical sense. Surrender means to let go of the control and lean into God for support.

- It means trusting God.
- In means you have confidence in God.
- It means you will be guided by God.
- It means accepting the mystery of God without needing to define it.
- It means embracing the wonder of God, and delighting in His presence.

Surrender.

Mary surrendered to God, long before this night.

- She accepted that mystery and wonder with the angels words months before.

- She knew the path she chose would be difficult.
- She was uncertain what her future would look like.

But tonight as the shepherds honoured her and the angels sang to her, she was rewarded for her faithfulness, her trust, and her surrender. Nothing could have been more glorious in this moment.

And that is why we return to the manger.

- To feel some of that glory.
- To accept the mystery in our lives, where God is working.
- To embrace the moments of wonder He interjects into our everyday,
- Reminding us of Him.
- Reminding us of His son.
- Reminding us to surrender and to trust.

*Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born
~O Holy Night*