

## Christmas Eve At-Home Worship Guide

### Candle Lighting

If you have an Advent wreath at home, light all four candles around the wreath for hope, peace joy, and love. Light the Christ candle in the center. If you do not have an Advent wreath, light any candle to represent the light of Christ. Offer a prayer, inviting Christ to shine brightly in our lives.

### Christmas Story: Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-12

Read the Christmas story from the Bible. As the Christmas Story is read, place each character at the nativity scene as their part of the story is read. If children are present, they may want to play with the nativity pieces (or with a toy or paper nativity set.)

You may wish to intersperse the Scripture readings with Christmas carols. You could sing the carols and/or play them on a CD (or other device.) Here is one suggested order, but you may wish to use different carols.

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**Luke 2:1-7**

*Away in a Manger*

**Luke 2:8-20**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing or The First Noel*

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*We Three Kings or O Come All Ye Faithful*

### Communion

Christmas celebrates the incarnation of God. Incarnation means embodiment, manifestation, personification...all big words which mean God became a human. God was born into the world in the body of a baby, baby Jesus. When Jesus grew, he gave of his body as he taught, healed, fed, and touched. Then he gave his body, his very life, on the cross. We remember Jesus' body when we observe communion. We eat of the bread and drink of the cup, in thanksgiving for the gift of God in a human body. Eat a piece of bread or cracker and drink a sip of juice. Offer a prayer of thanks to God for the gift of Jesus born in a human body.

### Closing

Sing or listen to *Silent Night* and light a candle (one for each person present, if possible; children may use flashlights or glowsticks if you prefer) remembering how the light of Christ always shines even in the darkest of times. God is here, tonight, and always.