

# CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

**December 24, 2023**

Hymn #234 - O Come, All Ye Faithful (v.1,3,6)

Opening Prayer

Hymn #240 - Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Children's Time

Lighting the Christ Candle

Offering

Hymn #230 - O Little Town of Bethlehem (v.1,3,4)

Scripture Reading - Luke 2:1-20

Hymn #246 - Joy to the World (v.1,2,4)

Message - "Greetings, Favored One! The Lord is with you!"

The Passing of the Light

Hymn # 239 - Silent Night

Benediction



← Sermon Series Devotional  
with Daily Bible Reading  
and Weekly Reflections



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## God Has a Dream

*An excerpt from a sermon preached by Rev. Michael Curry,  
Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church USA*

When I was a little boy in Sunday School, I learned a poem by Langston Hughes:

*Hold fast to dreams  
For life without dreams  
Is like a bird with a broken wing  
That cannot fly.*

Hold fast to dreams.

God has a dream. God has a dream, a vision, plan, a sublime divine purpose for this world. God has a dream for his creation, a dream for every man, woman, and child whoever walked upon the face of the earth, and God will not rest until our nightmare is ended and God's dream is realized. That's what Jesus is all about. That's what he came to show us. He came to show us the way to live God's dream instead of our nightmare. He came to show us the way to be truly and authentically and genuinely human as God intended and created us. He came to show us how to become more than simply an individual collection of self-interests. He came to show us how to become the human family of God.

And when the world is lived like that, when our lives are lived like that, then children don't go to bed hungry. When the world is lived more in accord with God's dream, God's vision for life, then we will find ways to lay our swords and shields down by the riverside to study war no more.

Oh, God has a dream. And God will not rest until God's dream is accomplished...

***Hinckley First UMC is a faith community proclaiming  
the Good News through worship, ministry, and outreach.***

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