

merry christmas



Merry Christmas from Highland Park United Methodist Church

I pray this message finds you enjoying the warmth of the company of family and friends, despite the snow and ice outside.

Although we have been unable to meet as a congregation, and will need to cancel tonight's Christmas Eve service. I would rather see you safe with your family tonight rather than take unnecessary risks for us to meet.

Yet in our hearts we know we must continue to celebrate the coming of Jesus. The one who brings us hope, peace, joy and love by his sacrifice on the cross remains the reason this Season is filled with gladness and rejoicing.

Below is a Christmas devotion which you and your loved ones can share and participate in. I encourage you to use this devotional guide with your family either tonight, in place of the Christmas Eve service, or tomorrow as a Christmas Day devotional. It may or may not be used with a Christmas wreath and is a great way of introducing family and friends to the reason Jesus became a man and starting a great family tradition.

Christmas Devotion

Sing: "Silent Night"
(If there is a wreath with candles, this is the time to light it.
Let the children light the candles to allow them to participate.)

Leader: The wait is over!

**All: This is the day of the Lord's coming,
the day of our Savior's birth!**

Leader: Hear the story.

Reader: Read Luke 2:1-14.

Leader: We celebrate the coming of our Savior in the birth of the baby named Jesus.

**All: Jesus is God's gift to us - the gift though undeserved,
is the very best gift we will ever receive!**

Leader: What a great and wonderful gift!

All: God's gift in Jesus shows us how much God loves us!
Thanks be to God!

Leader: Let us pray...

**Prayer: Thank you God for giving us the gift of Jesus.
May we be thankful for your wonderful gift
every day of our lives. Amen.**

Sing: "Joy to the World!"

Enjoy your time with your family as you reflect on and anticipate Christ's final return. May Christ's love be seen in all of you as you share with one another the joys of Christmas.

Have a Merry Christmas and I hope to see you on Sunday!

Stephen Granadosin
Highland Park UMC - Seattle

*For more information, visit our website:
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/hpumc-seattle/>*