

Virginia Council of Churches  
Christmas Eve – Advent Reflection

**“When God Speaks”**

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” <sup>15</sup>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 2:8-15(NIV)

We live in a world full of all types of influences. Media influences us via television ads and mail-in rebates. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram influence us with other people's personal business and pictures of what we could have and who we could look like if we would just "follow" them. How much better our lives could be if we would pay Twitter-like attention to the voice of God. In the words of the physician Luke, we hear the voice of God in the words of the angel Gabriel delivering a promise to Mary. We hear the voice of God in the song of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus. We hear the voice of God in the proclamation of the shepherds. When God speaks, we can count on His promise to be fulfilled. We must learn to recognize, listen and obey. This Christmas Eve, let us remember to hold on to the promises of God as we wait in anticipation for the celebration on Christmas Day. While we wait for the return of Christ the Savior let us praise Him for His power and go, like the shepherds, into the Bethlehem of our communities and spread the good news.

Prayer: Most Holy and Awesome God, we thank you for your promises. Help us to discern your voice. Teach us to sing your praises. Lead us to follow Your will for our lives. In Jesus's name. Amen.



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