

# Christmas Eve 2009

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Sign me up for the next Starting Point Orientation on February 20 or 21  
(refer to the reverse side for details)

## Which Christmas Eve service did you attend?

- Rockrimmon Campus  
 Woodmen Heights Campus  
 10 am  
 12 pm  
 2 pm  
 4 pm  
 6 pm  
 8 pm

## How did you hear about Woodmen? (please check all that apply)

- Friend/Family  Banner  Postcard  
 Newspaper  Church bulletin  
 Church website  TV  
 The Woodmen Journal  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Our Vision

To launch and strengthen a fleet of Christ-following communities who are compassionately sailing through a turbulent culture toward a deeper amazement of God's grace.

## Three Implications of Our Amazement

(Indications of the Amazement we already have, as well as catalysts for deeper amazement.)

## Exploring

If we are amazed, we will **Explore** God's Grace through digging into Scripture and applying it to the story of our personal and corporate journey.

## Experiencing

If we are amazed, we will **Experience** God's Grace through acknowledging our desperation and submitting it to the forgiveness and power of His intervention through Christ, resulting in an authentic relationship with Him as well as others in community, and experiencing daily transformation as a result.

## Expressing

If we are amazed, we will **Express** God's Grace by fully engaging with life, worshipping on an everyday basis, communicating the liberating gospel of grace to others, living lives of compassion within and outside the walls of the church, all in an environment of creativity and calling.

## One Church, Multiple Locations

ROCKRIMMON CAMPUS  
290 E. WOODMEN RD.  
COLORADO SPRINGS CO, 80919

WOODMEN HEIGHTS CAMPUS  
8292 WOODMEN VALLEY VIEW  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80908

SERVICE TIMES  
SATURDAY 6:00 PM  
SUNDAY 8:45 AM • 11:00 AM

WOODMENVALLEY.ORG  
719.388.5000



Heading Home  
with Christmas

Christmas Eve 2009

# Heading Home with Christmas

Luke 2:8-20

Pastor Matt Heard

Obscure middle eastern shepherds. That's all they were. Nothing spectacular about their lives ... or their careers. An ordinary, mundane night at work with the flocks in the hills outside Bethlehem. That's all it was. Nothing noteworthy about the evening.

A dirty livestock cave carpeted with a couple of feet of sheep manure and wallpapered with soot from hundreds of years of bedouin fires. That's all it was. A teenage Jewish girl away from her family on a trip with her husband about to give birth to a child that wasn't his. To anyone strolling by, no hints of historical significance on the horizon, just continued embarrassment. That's all it was.

A scooped-out water trough with some ragged, hastily prepared cloths layered in anticipation of cushioning what most would assume would be an obscure, ordinary peasant baby. That's all it was.

Really? You know better. At least in your head you know that's not all it was. How about in your gut — in that area of your life that connects with the stuff of your days. Do you know it there?

We know the events we commemorate and the Savior we celebrate at Christmastime were anything but ordinary. But how adept are we at carrying their significance into our lives? Luke, a first century physician turned historian, summed it up by saying that “*the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen ...*” (Luke 2:20).

To what did they return? Work. Relationships. Stress and anxiety as well rest and celebration. Just making it through some days and enjoying other ones. Bottom line, they headed home. But, as they headed home, they were different because the events of that night were anything but ordinary. That's actually the same path we're to take once we come in contact with the reality of the Christmas events, whether it's for the first time or the thousandth time. We head back home ... with Christmas in tow.

For followers of Jesus, taking Christmas home is the greatest privilege of our lives. For those of us who aren't yet Christ-followers, taking Christmas home with us is the greatest privilege we can possibly consider. What? You weren't considering that when you came through these church doors for what you assumed would simply be a routine part of your Christmas Eve festivities? Neither were the shepherds when they went to work that night.

When we leave through those same doors at the end of this service, may we head home ... back into our lives. And may each step of that journey be accompanied with the miraculous and mysterious majesty of God clothing Himself with human flesh and dwelling among us.

# Christmas Eve 2009

Welcome

Adam Atchison  
Woodmen Heights

Worship through Music

Andy Bromley  
Nate Rees  
Kristin Wood  
Rockrimmon

Mark Tedder  
Woodmen Heights

Worship through Giving

Pastor Matt Heard

Message

Worship through Communion

Silent Night

Benediction

Pastor Matt Heard

## Welcome to Woodmen!

We are honored that you have chosen to celebrate Christmas Eve with us this year! Whether you are a long-time follower of Christ or someone who is honestly investigating what Christmas is all about, we are glad you are here.

We hope our time together will serve as an opportunity for you to carve out a few moments to engage with the life-changing realities of Christmas. Those realities go much deeper than the typical themes behind many of the well-intentioned but often superficial “holiday” celebrations found in our culture. Our desire is for this time to be used by God as an instrument that enables you to head back “home” into your life ... impacted because you've engaged with the birth of the King and Savior who not only changed history but can change each of us as well!

If we can help you with your spiritual journey, please let us know. If you would like more information about becoming a follower of Jesus Christ or our Starting Point Groups (a 10-week small group where you are invited to ask questions or voice opinions about God, the Bible or faith), please simply check the appropriate box on the tear-off portion of this program and drop it off in the offering basket as it passes during the service, or hand it to one of the ushers as you leave today.

Also, if you do not own a Bible, please come to one of the tables up front or at each exit and take one as our gift to you. Along with that Bible we have included some suggestions for a Scripture Reading Plan, information about our Starting Point Groups, as well as a summary of what's involved when a person becomes a follower of Christ.

Thank you again for being with us today. Merry Christmas!



### Want to learn more about a relationship with God?

Starting Point is a 10-week small group environment where you are invited to ask any questions or voice any opinion about God, the Bible or faith. Our goal is to provide a forum where you can process but will not be pressured to change your beliefs.

To learn more or to join a group, attend our next **Starting Point Orientation on February 20 or 21**, following each service:

- Woodmen Heights, Colorado Room 102
- Rockrimmon Worship Center, Room 107

These 20-minute orientations will give you all the information you need to get started. Groups will begin the following weekend.

For more info or to sign up, complete your contact information on the reverse side of this card, check the Starting Point sign-up portion or sign up at [woodmenvalley.org/startingpoint](http://woodmenvalley.org/startingpoint).

### Did you make a decision today?

- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my personal savior.
- I recommitted my life to Jesus Christ.
- I'd like more information about committing my life to Jesus Christ. Please contact me.

### Prayer Requests/General Comments

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Please drop this card in the offering basket as it passes during the service or give it to one of the ushers as you leave today. Thank you!