Homily offered by The Rev. Charles Rowins at St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, Maryland, December 24, 2018, Service of Lessons and Carols.

This evening we observe **a moment in time**. Not a millennium. Not an era. Not a century. Not a year or a month or a day or an hour. Just a **moment**.

Or rather, just **The** moment. **The** moment when God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, decided to enter human history as an infant for the purpose of salvation.

Mary's pregnancy was deliberate. It was part of a plan. She was as surprised as anyone, but, bless her heart, she, with Joseph by her side, dutifully agreed to bear and raise the child.

A son was born, with the name of Jesus. He was special, right from the start of his life. In our Sunday worship, we recount just how special this Jesus was and is. For tonight, however, we focus on that moment in time when God fulfilled a promise. A Savior, not just for the Hebrew people, but for all people for all time.

The birth of Jesus was a cosmic event. Yes, it took place in Bethlehem of Judea, but, from the beginning, the birth had implications for the whole world and for all of history. The visit of the Wise Men was no accident. They followed a Star. They were guided. They were meant to welcome the infant, to pay homage, on behalf of all humankind.

Not everyone welcomed the birth of Jesus. He was a threat to those in power. And those in power were ready to kill this infant, not to rid the world of danger, but to preserve their own power.

Yes, the Birth of Jesus is quite a Story. The best evidence for its remarkable longevity is that the Story is repeated every year, in households of worship all over the world, including this Island Community, thus giving every generation hope and promise.

Think of all the ways this Story could have died. But it has not. It is alive and well and with us tonight. And we are extremely grateful and hopeful and joyful. And all because of **one moment in time**, when God decided to fulfill the promise of a Savior. Amen.