

OUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

Sunday School Christmas Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *'Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful'*- CW # 55

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2. God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

INVOCATION & PASTOR'S MESSAGE

SONG: “On Christmas Night” –CW # 52, v. 1

(All children)

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

1-8: Christmas isn't just for kids. Christmas isn't just for Christians. Christmas is for *everyone*, because we *all* need a Savior. And we have for a very long time.

(Children sit)

CONGREGATIONAL READING: Men and Women

M: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And he saw that it was good.

W: He created man and woman in his own image, and they were perfect. They were called Adam and Eve.

M: They loved the Lord and lived to praise and serve him.

W: And the Lord loved them.

M: But the devil tempted them, and they ate the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

W: First Eve ate, then Adam. They wanted to be as wise as God. They put their own wills before his.

M: This was the first sin, and the root of all sins to follow.

W: Through sin, suffering and death came into the world, to all their descendants—to us.

M: But God still loved Adam and Eve. So he promised to send his son,

W: The Savior,

M: To pay for the sins of all;

W: To be the Ransom that would redeem us,

M: So that we, through him, could live again.

W: Through faith in him, we live again.

- 1-2: In the Bible, prophets proclaim God’s promise of a coming Savior. The promise was passed on from generation to generation.
- 3-4: A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
- 5-6: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.
- 7-8: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 1-8: Tonight, we celebrate the birth of God’s son, Jesus!

(Children sit; Readers from grade7-8 can take their places during congregational hymn)

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN - “Come, O Precious Ransom, Come” (CW #8, v.1)

1. Come, O precious Ransom, come, Only Hope for sinful mortals!
 Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to you all portals.
 Come, your beauty let us view; anxiously we wait for you.

READER(S) Grades 7 & 8

- R: In the first chapter of Luke, the Bible tells us that God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendent of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,
- R: “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”“Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High.
- R: “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am still a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.”
- R: The Book of Matthew tells us that before Joseph and Mary came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man, and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
- R: But an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her womb is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
- R: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet, Isaiah: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us”.

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary home as his wife.

(Readers sit. Congregation sings) SONG- “Let All Together Praise Our God” CW #41, Stanza 1 & 4

1. Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.

4. A wondrous change which he does make: He takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners' sake His majesty as God,
His majesty as God

3-4: *(recitation)* In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register.

5-6: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David. Because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him, and was expecting a child.

SONG- “O Little Town of Bethlehem” CW #65 (Grades 3-6, stanza 1; Congregation, stanza 3)

3-6:

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

Congregation:

3. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

(Grades 1-2, 7-8 also stand)

1-2: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

SONG- “Gentle Mary laid Her Child” CW #56

Grades 1-8 sing stanza 1. *Children and congregation speak the Scripture portions as the accompanist plays through song again an octave higher. Then children sing the 3rd stanza in its regular octave)*

(Sing)

Gr. 1-8:

- 1. Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger.
 There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
 Such a babe in such a place -- Can he be the Savior?
 Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.

(Scripture read while “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child,” is played an octave higher)

5-8: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were terrified!

Cong: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

(Sing)

Gr. 1-8:

- 3. Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger.
 He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
 Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
 Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of Glory! *(Playing stops)*

Cong: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly hosts appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men, on whom his favor rests.”

(Children sit)

SONG- “Angel Medley” – (from the eSongbook, “The Story of God’s Love.” This eSong may be purchased separately)

(Children may sing with congregation)

OFFERTORY (Your choice)

(Grades 3-8 stand)

5-6: 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 told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger.

SONG- “What Child Is This?” CW # 67

3-8: **1.** What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Who angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!

(recite over music- Begin background accomp. on 2nd line of this song)

Gr.3-4: The shepherds saw a living promise, for Jesus is God's saving Word made flesh.

Gr. 7-8: He lived a perfect life to save us. He died on the cross to save us. He rose again in triumph to save us.
He truly is our Savior!

Child/Cong:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life

(sing)

3-8: **2.** Why lies he in such mean estate where oxen now are feeding?
God's only son has just begun his work for our redeeming.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; the cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mary.

**(An introduction to "Away In a Manger"
may be played as Nursery, Pre-K and K
walk to the front to recite:)**

(recite)

N-K: Jesus took our sins away.
And he cares for us each day.
What a loving thing to do;
Baby Jesus, we thank you!

SONG- "Away in a manger"-CW #68 (or traditional melody)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

(N-K may return to their seats during congregational singing)

**Cong: 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,**

And take us to heaven to live with you there.

ALL STAND FOR PRAYER (Children face altar)

Cong/Children:

O most merciful God, who has given your one and only son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for his sake, grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you, and of your will, and true obedience to your word, to the end that by your grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Cong. Sits; Children turn to face them)

3-8: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

(Children sit)

SONG- “Silent Night! Holy Night”- CW # 60

Cong: 1.Silent night! Holy Night!

**All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

2. Silent night! Holy night!

**Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

(All children stand)

5-8: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.

1-4: And that’s how the Savior, promised to Adam and Eve, promised to **ALL** of us, was born.

N-8: Be glad and be thankful—he came for *you*!

SONG- “He Has Made Me Glad”(also known as “I Will Enter His Gates”)

(by Leona Von Brethorst, ©1976 Maranatha Praise, Inc..)

Note: The original words have been altered to make this a closing song.

3-8: I will now leave God's house with thanksgiving in my heart.
I will now leave God's house with praise.
For the promise is fulfilled that the Lord has willed.
I've heard and I believe and I am saved!

N-8: He has made me glad. He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad. He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

Cong. joins in:

I will now leave God's house with thanksgiving in my heart.
I will now leave God's house with praise.
For the promise is fulfilled that the Lord has willed.
I've heard and I believe and I am saved!

He has made me glad. He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad. He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

He has made me glad. He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad. He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL - "Joy to the World" - CW #62

(Children exit after first stanza)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

No more let sin and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.