
**COMBINED CONGREGATIONS
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2021**

Who Is He?

A Children's Christmas Service

Congregation rise and sing the first carol as the children enter the church.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

1

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the king of angels:

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2

God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not
the virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created:

3

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above:
Glory to God In the highest:

4

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

Remain Standing

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 24:7-10

Pastor: Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

Congregation: that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

Congregation: The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Pastor: Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,

Congregation: that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is He, this King of glory?

All: The LORD Almighty—He is the King of glory.

Prayer: Father in heaven, You sent Your Son - a special Child. We behold Him with the angels, shepherds, Wise Men, and all nations. He has come to save us from our sin. Let us worship Him and tell others of His love. In His name we pray. Amen.

Congregation sit for Pastor's children's address

INTRODUCTION

Pastor: Have you ever had a person tell you that someone is coming to visit, but doesn't reveal the visitor's name? Instead, you're given descriptions or clues to the visitor's identity. As long as the identity is unknown, one question is foremost in mind: Who is he or she? Tonight we shall look at some of the descriptions, or clues, God gave to His people about a Man who was to come into the world. His identity is important to us too. So we also ask, "Who is He?"

Hymn by Children & Congregation:

HARK, THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOUR COMES

Children:

1

Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long.
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

Congregation:

2

He comes the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure.
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

1. WHO IS HE? THE PROMISED ONE

Toowoomba Reader: In Genesis chapter 1 we read that after the sixth day of creation, God *saw all that He had made, and it was very good* (Gen. 1:31). God had created a perfect world for humankind. He put the crown of His creation – humans - in the Garden of Eden, where He had placed the Tree of Life. God intended for them to live in His perfect creation forever. But God also placed another named tree in the Garden, and with it came the following command, “*You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die*” (Genesis 2:15-17). For a time, Adam and Eve obeyed this command. However, the devil came and led Adam and Eve into sin by enticing them to eat from the forbidden tree.

Recitation:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die’” (Genesis 3:1-3).

Recitation:

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it (Genesis 3:4-6).

Reader:

Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command. Now, because of their sin, they would die. They had separated themselves from God, yet God, out of great love for His creation, did not abandon them. He had a plan, already from eternity, that would save the human race from its sin. God promised to send a Saviour.

Recitation:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel” (Genesis 3:15).

Toowoomba Reader:

Who is He? All we know is, God had promised that when this Man would come, He would destroy the power of the devil.

Hymn by Children & Congregation:

O COME, O COME, IMMANUEL

Children:

1

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear;
*Rejoice, rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel*

Congregation:

2

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save;
bring them in victory through the grave:

3

O come, our Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by Your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

4

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the path that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:



2. WHO IS HE? THE PROPHESED ONE

Aubigny Reader: From God's description of the One who was to come, given in the Garden of Eden, believers could not yet answer exactly the question, "Who is He?" So throughout the Old Testament, God gave further descriptions concerning this Promised One. God inspired the prophet Micah to reveal where this Man would be born.

Recitation:

"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" (Micah 5:2).

Through Jeremiah and Isaiah, God foretold that this man would belong to the line of King David and would reign on His throne forever.

Recitation:

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Saviour" (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Recitation:

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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Hymn by Children & Congregation:

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Children: 1

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Congregation: 3

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Children: 2

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Congregation: 4

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Aubigny Reader: Isaiah also reveals that this Man would suffer for us.

Recitation:

Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:4-6).

Reader:

Who is He? // We still do not have a complete description of this Man.
// However, these prophecies fill in greater detail about Him and His mission.

Hymn by Congregation:

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

1

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He.
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

3

This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

2

O that birth for ever blessed
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Saviour of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

4

O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
All dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

5

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be,
Honour, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.



3. WHO IS HE? THE NEWBORN ONE

Oakey Reader: For thousands of years, God provided prophecy after prophecy about the One He had promised to send to save humankind from their sin. The world was now ready. Peace prevailed in the Roman Empire. God sent His angel to a virgin named Mary, a descendant of King David's family who was living in the lowly town of Nazareth, to give her some wonderful news.

Recitation:

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:26-33).

Reader: Mary lived in Nazareth, a little way from Bethlehem where the Promised One was to be born. But God used the Roman emperor to get Mary to Bethlehem so she would give birth to the Saviour there, just as Micah had prophesied.



Recitation:

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. 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 be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them (Luke 2:1-7).

Hymn by Children and Congregation:

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Children:

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.

Children:

2

For Christ is born of Mary;
 And, gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to men on earth.

Congregation:

3

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Congregation:

4

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Reader: The One promised in the Garden of Eden had finally come into this world! But how would people know that He had come? There were no news agencies to get the word out. The message could not be tweeted to the world in an instant. But God had a plan. He sent an angel to a small band of shepherds to announce the birth of the Saviour.

Recitation:

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 around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:8-12).

Recitation:

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests."

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." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby, who was lying in the manger (Luke 2:13-16).

Hymn by Children and Congregation:

TO SHEPHERDS AS THEY WATCHED BY NIGHT

Children:

1

To shepherds as they watched by night
Appeared a host of angels bright;
Behold the tender babe, they said,
In yonder lowly manger laid.

Children:

2

He lies in Bethlem, David's town,
As Micah did of old make known;
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,
Who doth to all salvation bring.

Congregation:

3

Rejoice ye, then, that through His Son
God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
Your brother is the eternal God.

4

What harm can sin and death then do?
The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and Satan rage and chafe,
Christ is your brother: you are safe.

5

Not one He will or can forsake
Who Him his confidence doth make.
Though all their wiles your foes may try,
You can their utmost powers defy.

6

You shall, you must, at last prevail;
God's own you are, and cannot fail.
To God for ever sing your praise
With joy and patience all your days.

4. WHO IS HE? THE ONE TO BE SHARED

Greenwood Reader: The Saviour had come. And what wondrous news this was! The shepherds believed the message of the angel. So they left their sheep to see their Saviour. They were so excited that the long-awaited One had finally come! And they could not help but tell everyone they met what they had witnessed.

Recitation:

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. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told (Luke 2:17-20).

Pastor: Now we have the answer to the question “Who is He?” He is Jesus - Christ the Lord come to save us from our sins. That is good news! Like the shepherds, we want to share that news with others so that they also may have the peace the angel spoke of - peace between God and sinners. Jesus Himself tells us how, and what, we are to share.

Recitation: (All the Children)

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).

During the Hymn by Congregation, the Offering will be received and presented at the altar.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King:

Congregation stand

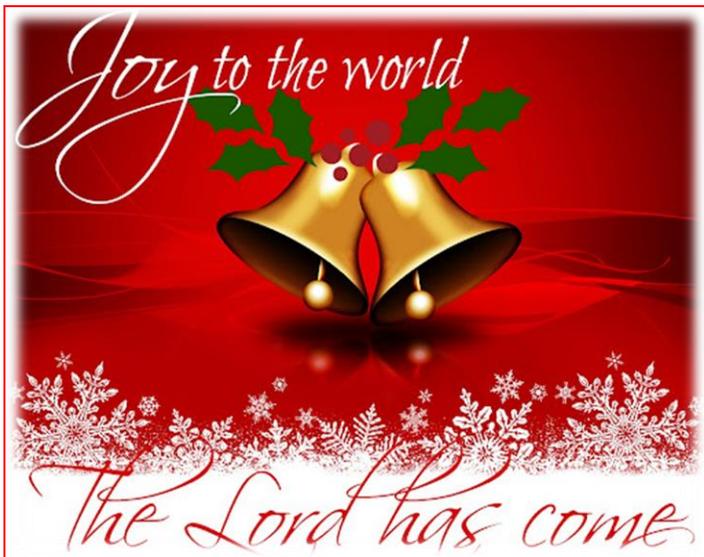
Prayer:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold Him in all His glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with Hou and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favour and give you peace. **Congregation: Amen!**



Hymn by Congregation

JOY TO THE WORLD

1

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive its King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2

Joy to the earth! the Saviour 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.

3

No more let sins 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.

4

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.

Presentations to the children



Closing Hymn by Children

AWAY IN A MANGER

1

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid 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 baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love You, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask You to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with You there.