

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

2024



Sing glory, glory!

Children proceed to the front of the church during the processional hymn

Congregation: NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE

1

Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heaven our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies,
Yet not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Saviour art,
Thou my Saviour art!

2

Come from on high to me,
I cannot rise to Thee;
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy child.
Through all Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee,
Draw me unto Thee.

3

Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine;
Death o'er us had reigned
Through sin and vanity:
The Son for us obtained
Eternal joy on high.
O that we were there,
O that we were there.

4

O where shall joy be found?
Where but on heavenly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Their sweetest praises bringing
In heavenly joy and light.
O that we were there,
O that we were there!

The congregation stands

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96

**All: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song. A Saviour
has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.**

P: Sing to the LORD, praise His name;

C: proclaim His salvation day after day.

P: Declare His glory among the nations,

C: His marvellous deeds among all peoples.

P: Worship the LORD in the splendour of His holiness;

C: tremble before Him, all the earth.

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

C: let the sea resound and all that is in it;

P: let the fields be jubilant and everything in them.

C: Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy,

P: for He comes to judge the world in righteousness

C: and the peoples in His truth.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

COLLECT

We thank You, O God, for the bright dawn that marked the first coming of our Saviour, and we ask You to lead us by Your Word to His cradle and to His cross. May Your Spirit move us to love and obey Him, who is the very presence of God with us and for us, Your Son, and our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Pastor's Message:

Congregation: JOY TO THE WORLD

1

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.

2

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men 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 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.

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.

Part 1: Jesus is Born

Recitation

(Luke 2:1-7)

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 his 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 room for them in the inn.

Children - Theme Song: “Sing Glory, Glory!” (sung to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”)

- In a manger on the hay,
 Jesus lay on Christmas Day.
 Born as our Immanuel,
 He is God with us to dwell.
Refrain
 Sing glory, glory!
 Sing glory, glory! Sing glory, glory!
 God’s Son has come to us.



Narration

Jacob prophesied that the time would come when the Jews would be governed by a foreign power and taxed. In Genesis 49:10 he says, “The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom [tribute] belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.” When the Jews came under Roman rule, the emperor planned a taxation based on an empire-wide census.

God used this time to bring Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, the home of their forefather David, to fulfill what Micah had prophesied: “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).

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.

Congregation: O THOU HOLIEST, O THOU HAPPIEST

1
O Thou holiest, O Thou happiest.
Grace-bestowing Christmastide!
Christ in a manger
Saves from all danger:
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!

2
O Thou holiest, O Thou happiest,
Peace-proclaiming Christmastide!
Christ's light is beaming,
Mankind redeeming;
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!

3
O Thou holiest, O Thou happiest,
Life imparting Christmastide!
Angels from glory
Chant the great story
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!

Part 2: Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds

Recitation

(Luke 2:8-12)

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 of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour 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."

Theme Song

2. Shepherds with their flocks that night
Saw an angel's glory bright.
"Do not fear," he said to them.
"A Savior's born in Bethlehem."



Refrain

Sing glory, glory!

Sing glory, glory! Sing glory, glory!

God's Son has come to us.

Narration

The birth of a child is reason to celebrate. Parents send out birth announcements. Friends and family eagerly look forward to getting a glimpse of the baby. And so it was with the birth of our Saviour. God sent out a glorious birth announcement to shepherds who were guarding their sheep out in the countryside near the small town of Bethlehem.

As with others who saw angels, these lowly shepherds were afraid when the angel appeared to them. But the angel assured them that what they were about to hear was good news. These faithful Jewish shepherds were the ones to whom God decided to proudly announce the birth of his one and only Son. But this message was not only for them. It was for all people of all times.

The shepherds were to follow the directions of the angel so that they might have a glimpse of their newborn King. He was to be found in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Certainly this was an unusual place for a child. But it was part of God's plan to help the shepherds know that they had found the Messiah. Yet how much more unusual and humble was this bed for the newborn King of all creation!

Congregation: FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME (Part 1)

1
"From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
Whereof I now will say and sing;

2
"To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3
"This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Saviour be,
From all your sins to set you free.

4
He brings those blessings, long ago
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom bright and fair
You may with us His glory share.

5

“These are the tokens ye shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark;
There shall ye find the young Child laid
By whom the heavens and earth were
made.”

6

Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Follow the shepherds, and draw near
To see this wondrous gift of God,
Who hath His own dear Son
bestowed.

7

Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes;
Who is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this child, so young and fair?
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

Part 3: The Angels sing of Jesus' Glory

Recitation

(Luke 2:13-14)

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

Theme Song

3. Then a heav'nly host appeared
Praising God for all to hear!
With this news the shepherds fled
Quickly to the manger bed.

Refrain

Sing glory, glory!
Sing glory, glory! Sing glory, glory!
God's Son has come to us.



Narration

What a joy it must have been to hear the multitude of angels praising God! It must have been truly awesome. Someday believers will join the angels around the throne of God, singing his praises. Let us use our lives of worship here on this earth to practice for our perfect praise in heaven!

To God be all glory!

Children: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

1

While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

2

“Fear not,” said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

3

“To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

4

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.”

5

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6

“All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.”

Congregation: 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:

Part 4: The Shepherds see Jesus

Recitation

(Luke 2:15-20)

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.

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.

Theme Song

- There they saw the holy child
Wrapped in cloths, so meek and mild.
Joyfully the shepherds raced
To spread this news in ev’ry place.

Refrain

Sing glory, glory!
Sing glory, glory! Sing glory, glory!
God’s Son has come to us.



Narration

The Jews had been waiting for the Messiah for thousands of years. So it is not surprising that the shepherds excitedly hurried to Bethlehem to search out the child.

After seeing the child, they were so overcome with joy that they told all who would listen that the Messiah had been born. Everything that the angel had said was true, and they were witnesses to the fact.

And so these shepherds were given the wonderful task of testifying to the truth that God had come to earth as a child born in Bethlehem.

Children: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

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,
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Narration

1. Sleep in heavenly peace. What is heavenly peace? Not something we come by naturally. The Bible tells us in Psalm 51:5: "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." (Hold up a black cross)
2. From our very beginnings, our hearts, dark with sin, made us natural enemies of God.
3. Paul says in Romans 5:8, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Hold up a red cross)
4. Jesus washed us in his blood, which makes us as white as snow. In 1 John 1:7, we hear, "The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." (Hold up a white cross)
5. Sin no longer separates us from God. We are at peace with God. Paul tells us in Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." We live knowing our eternal peace awaits us in our heavenly home.

Theme Song

5. Jesus is God's own dear Son
Sent from heav'n for ev'ryone.
Lived and died for you and me
So from sin we could be free.

Refrain

Sing alleluia!

Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!

The Saviour has been born.



Congregation:

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

(The Collection will be received during this carol)

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 happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

The congregation stands

P: For to us a child is born **C: To us a Son is given;**

P: And the government shall be upon His shoulder,

**C: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

THE CONFESSION

P: Dear friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

The congregation sits/kneels

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord. **C: He made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord. **C: Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.**

ALL: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

[The minister addresses the congregation]

P: I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins? **C: I do.**

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name? **C: I do.**

P: Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence, and to strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy? **C: I do.**

P: Christ gave to His church the authority to forgive the sins of those who repent, and to declare to those who do not repent that their sins are not forgiven. Therefore, upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you. **C: Amen.**

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord. **C: For that is fitting and right.**

P: It is truly fitting and right, and for our lasting good, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, and will also make all things new, in the day when You will come again, to judge the world in righteousness. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

C: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said, Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me. In the same way He took the cup, after the supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, Drink of it all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

THE LAMB OF GOD

ALL: O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

During the Distribution, the congregation sings:

PRAISE GOD THE LORD, YE SONS OF MEN

1

Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heaven again
And gives us His own Son.

2

He leaves His heavenly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall.

3

His power to use He now refrains,
No crown adorns His brow;
He who as King for ever reigns
Comes as a Servant now.

4

He is the branch of David's line,
King David's Lord and Son,
Through whom and by whose grace divine
The kingdom must be won.

5

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

6

He serves that I a lord may be –
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need?

7

He opens us again the door
Of Paradise today;
The angel guards the gate no more:
To God our thanks we pay.

BEHOLD, A ROSE IS GROWING

1

Behold, a Rose is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race,
And comes a little flower,
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

2

Isaiah had foretold it
In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold it,
A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will,
This child to her is given
At midnight calm and still

3

This flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendour
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

4

O Saviour, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory,
Who does our weakness know:
Lead us at length, we pray,
To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

After Holy Communion, the congregation stands for the SONG OF SIMEON

ALL: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace:
according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation:
which You have prepared in the presence of all people;
A light to reveal You to the nations:
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and the Son:
and the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now:
and will be for evermore. Amen.

THE GREETING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

THE THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks to the Lord for He is good. Hallelujah!

C: For His love endures for ever. Hallelujah!

P: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, you did not spare Your own Son, but gave Him up for us all: As we have received His body and blood in the Sacrament, let us continually live in Him and He is us, so that, as Your children, we may walk in Your ways and serve You all the days of our life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: God be praised for evermore.

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.

THE BENEDICTION

P: Behold the Child! Jesus Christ, the Saviour, is born. In this Child, we are all made children of God. May the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day. **C: Amen.**

The congregation sits

Congregation: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1

Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

2

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel:

*Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

3

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:

*Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Presentations

Congregation: CHRISTIANS, AWAKE, SALUTE THE HAPPY MORN

1

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love,
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.

2

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
To you and all the nations on the earth;
This day hath God fulfilled His promised word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

3

To Bethlem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,
And found, with Joseph and the blessed maid,
Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;
Joyful, the wondrous story they proclaim,
The first apostles of His infant fame.

4

O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
Trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From His poor manger to His bitter cross;
Saved by His love, incessant we shall sing
Eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

