



THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Creative Communications
Sample

**A Children's
Christmas
Service**

WORSHIP KIT

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

A Children's Christmas Service

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

A Children's Christmas Service

About the Service

“The Good Old Days,” is a children’s service for Christmas Eve. The children of the congregation will present the “good old days”—the days when Jesus was born—with a drama, recitations, songs and Scripture readings. They will remind us that the best days are still to come!

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A Children's Christmas Service

Complete Script

[The children, except for the four main speakers and the nativity scene characters, may enter during the opening hymn.]

- The **Processional Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Adeste Fideles* irregular meter:

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!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

- The **Invocation and Responsive Reading** (*Hebrews 1:1-2; Isaiah 9:6; John 3:16*) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P We gather to worship on this holy night in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

C But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

P For to us a child is born,

C To us a son is given ...

P And his name shall be called

C Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,

C That whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- The **Prayer of the Day** is read by the pastor:

P Heavenly Father, through the words of the prophet, you promised that a child, a son, would be born for us. We have gathered here to celebrate the fulfillment of your promise. You have given us the best Christmas gift of all, the gift of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Fill us with the holy joy known by the angels as we join in singing praise to our newborn King. Fill us with the awe and wonder of the shepherds as we worship our Savior. Fill us with the desire to share the good news of salvation, so that, like those shepherds of Bethlehem, we too will tell everyone about the Savior whose birth we celebrate. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

- A **Hymn by the Congregation** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gloria 77 77 and refrain:

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.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- The **Meditation: The Good Old Days** is delivered by the pastor:

P We live in a rapidly changing and often frightening world. News reports—even local news reports—are filled with stories of floods, storms and other disasters. We fear terrorist attacks and violent crimes. There are, as the Lord Jesus warned there would be, “wars and rumors of wars.” People disagree about religion and politics and just about everything else, and they don’t hesitate to share their opinions on social media.

Do you ever long for the good old days? Especially at Christmas? Whenever those days were for you, things were different then, at least that is how you remember it. Life was more orderly and peaceful and unchanging. Life was always busy of course, but somehow more relaxed. But really, if you lived in those good old days again, wouldn’t you just be pining for the good old days that came before those days?

Tonight we are here to celebrate some days of old that truly were good. In those days, too, there were reports of wars and terror and arguments about religion and politics. But during those good old days, on one of those good old nights, in fact, an angel announced welcome and long-awaited news to shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior. The holy Child of Bethlehem, announced by angels and worshiped by shepherds, grew up to teach and heal and proclaim the kingdom of God. When the time was right, Jesus carried our sins in his own body to the cross and

suffered the penalty of death that we deserved. Then he rose from the dead and promised, “Because I live, you also will live.” That is why Jesus came; that is why we celebrate tonight. God sent his Son to be our Savior, and through faith in his name we have forgiveness and eternal life. Talk about the good old days! What could be better than that? Yet, as we will see, the best days are still to come! Amen.

- A **Hymn by the Congregation** is sung by the congregation to the tune Greensleeves 87 87 68 67:

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom 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!

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

- **The Presentation by the Children** begins with **Part 1: The Good Old Days**, starting with a drama delivered by 4 speakers:

[Speakers 1 and 2 enter, coming up the center aisle, tossing a soccer ball back and forth; Speaker 3 enters right behind them, carrying a toy dinosaur and reading a big book about dinosaurs.]

1: I can’t believe we won the game on Saturday. That was close!

2: Danny’s last minute score saved us. Goalllllllllll!!!!

[Speaker 4 enters from the side, struggling to carry a broom, a mop and a bucket overflowing with spray bottles, sponges and rags.]

1: What’s all that stuff for? It looks like you’re cleaning the whole neighborhood! Are you in trouble or what?

- 4: I'm not in trouble, but I have to help clean the house and wash the car! My grandparents are coming to stay with us for Christmas and everything has to be perfect, at least that's what Mom says. I don't know why; I mean, they know what dust looks like.
- 2: My grandparents always bring me a lot of presents when they come at Christmas.
- 4: Yeah, mine will too. I like it when they come and I like to talk to them, but I get kind of bored when they sit around and talk to my parents about "the good old days," whenever that was.
- 3: *[finally looking up from the book]* "Good old days?" Old days? How old? Back when dinosaurs lived? I know all about those days! There was this really cool dinosaur ...
- 1: *[interrupting Speaker 3]* Forget about the dinosaurs! Anyway, I have to go home and practice my part for the Christmas Eve service. I've got almost all of it memorized. How does this sound *[announcing grandly]*: "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus ..."
- 4: "In those days"? Does that mean "the good old days"? We have to listen to that in church too? On Christmas?
- 1: No, "In those days" means the days when Jesus was born.
- 2: Those really were old days, but in church last week we learned about older days than that.
- 3: Dinosaur days?
- 2: No, not the dinosaur days! We learned about the days of the prophets. They told the people about God's promises. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born God said he would send a Savior, a special King, to his people. Isaiah told the people that light would shine in the darkness, and the King would come as a little child.
- The **Reading** of Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 is spoken by the pastor, a child or other worship leader:
 - Ⓜ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone ... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

- A **Recitation** is spoken by the children:

God said, “The prophets tell my Word.
They speak, and it’s my voice you’ve heard.”

Sin made the world as dark as night,
But God said, “I will send a Light!”

This Light will come, the prophets say,
And chase the darkness far away!

“And this,” God says, “is what I’ll do.
I’ll send a child, a son, to you!”

“Then when this newborn son is grown,
I will give to him a throne.”

“His rule and power will increase
And he will be the Prince of Peace.”

- **Part 1: The Good Old Days** continues with a drama delivered by Speakers 1, 4 and 2:

1: Prince of Peace? Kings and countries are always fighting wars, but this new King will be different. He will bring peace to his people, peace with each other and peace with God.

4: And the peace will last forever!

2: Isaiah the prophet said more about God’s promised King. The Prince of Peace will be a descendant of Jesse and Jesse’s son King David. His kingdom would be greater than David’s kingdom. The new kingdom will be so amazing that even wild animals will live together in peace!

- The **Reading** of Isaiah 11:1-3, 6 is spoken by the pastor, a child or other worship leader:

℞ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD ... The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.