

The background is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. A single, larger star with a prominent four-pointed starburst effect is positioned near the top center. Below the sky, the silhouettes of several palm trees are scattered across the horizon. In the foreground, a caravan of three camels is depicted in silhouette, moving from left to right. The overall scene is a classic representation of the journey of the Magi.

The
Word
and the
Wander

A Series of Services For
Advent and Christmas

Creative
Communications
Sample

The
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and the
Wonder

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Advent and Christmas

Leader's Guide

The
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The
Word
and the
Wonder

A Series of Services For
Advent and Christmas

About the Series

This series on CD for Advent and Christmas, **The Word and the Wonder**, celebrates the wonder of the Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. Services for the four weeks of Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day consider the response—the wonder—of Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna, the shepherds and the angels as each awaits and experiences the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior.

The CD includes a PDF of prayers, monolog sermons, children's sermons and music as well as the text files of the entire kit in .rtf (rich text format) with a copyright release and PowerPoint documents with text for use on screens.

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Service Two: The Word for Mary

Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- The **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or read silently by the congregation before the service:

“The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David.” Luke 1:32

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Meinen Jesum Lass’ Ich Nicht (Darmstadt) 78 78 77:

Come, thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to thee all portals.
Come, thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne’er depart, though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine when thou art my guest divine!

- The **Responsive Reading (from Psalm 138)** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;

C **For you have exalted above all things your name and your word.**

P All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

C **And they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.**

P For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,

C **But the haughty he knows from afar.**

P Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;

C **You stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.**

P The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

C **Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

P The **Confession and Absolution** is read responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, we do not obey your Word as we should. We reject your will for our lives and follow our own sinful desires. Forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus our Savior.**

P The Lord regards the lowly and he has stretched out his hand to save you. He hears your prayer and forgives your sins for the sake of Jesus our Lord. By his command I announce to you that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever!**

- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Meinen Jesum Lass' Ich Nicht* (Darmstadt) 78 78 77:

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let thy kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Last week we heard the story of the priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist. When Zechariah first heard Gabriel's message from God, did he believe the angel or did he doubt? (*Let children answer.*) Zechariah doubted the promise of God, and because he did not believe, Zechariah could not speak until the baby was born. When he could speak again, Zechariah praised God for his newborn son John. Zechariah praised God for keeping his promises to the people of Israel!

Before John was born, in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent out with another message from God. This time Gabriel visited a young woman named Mary. This new word from God was also about a baby, a baby who would be far more wonderful than Zechariah's son John. This baby would be the promised Savior and Mary was to name him Jesus. Mary's son would be a King and he would rule over God's people forever. When Mary heard the news, she wondered how such a thing could happen. The angel said that Mary would be the mother of this wonderful child and God would be his Father! Mary's son would be the Son of God!

What did Mary think of this amazing message from the angel? What do you think? Would she believe it or doubt it? (*Let children answer.*) Mary believed the wonderful word from God. She said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Mary asked God to let everything happen in her life just as he said. Later, like Zechariah, Mary would say words of praise to God. She knew that God was keeping the promise he had made long ago to Abraham and the people of Israel. Her baby Son Jesus would be the promised Savior.

Like Mary, we can believe the words of God. We know that God keeps his promises. We know that he kept his promise to send a Savior. When our Savior Jesus was grown up, he said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." That's a promise. You can believe it!

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. We know that your Word is true and that you always keep your promises. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gott Sei Dank 77 77:

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Name all other names above,
 Unto which must ev'ry knee
 Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old,
 To the maiden mother told,
 Kneeling in her lowly cell,
 By the angel Gabriel.

- The **Old Testament Lesson, 2 Samuel 7:12-18, 25-26**, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ “When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? . . . And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. And your name will be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is God over Israel,’ and the house of your servant David will be established before you.”

- The **Meditation** is delivered by the pastor:

¶ David hears a word from the Lord, not from an angel, but through the prophet Nathan. What is the word? After David’s death, God will raise up a son out of David’s royal family line, a son whose throne and kingdom God would establish forever. This eternal King would not only be a descendant of David, but God himself would be a Father to the coming King. The promised King would be the Son of David—and the Son of God. God would discipline his Son with the rod of men; the Son would be given over for punishment into the hands of sinful men. But God would never take his love from this Son. Saul, the king before David, had disobeyed the Lord. David, in his own time, would commit adultery and murder, although he would turn again to the Lord

in repentance. But not this Son to come—he would remain faithful and obedient to his Father. God would establish the Son’s throne and kingdom forever.

How does David respond to this wondrous word of the Lord? He asks the Lord, “Who am I ... that you have brought me thus far?” David knew and believed that the Lord would keep his promise. When the right time came, God finally confirmed his word with the birth of his Son—the Son of David. God’s name would be exalted—magnified—forever. This was a word of promise. A Son of David and Son of God was coming to be the King. At the wonder of that word, David responds in humility: “Who am I to be brought so far?” Who was he? David was chosen by God’s grace to be part his plan—his plan to send a mighty Son whose throne and kingdom would last forever.

- ☐ The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gabriel’s Message 10 10 11 7 3:

The angel Gabriel from heaven came.
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

- The **Gospel Lesson, Luke 1:26-38**, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- ☐ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Tune..... Antioch CM and refrain

Measures 1-5 of the musical score. The piece is in C major and common time. The melody in the treble clef begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a dotted quarter note A4, and then a half note B4. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a dotted quarter note A2, and then a half note B2. The music consists of simple harmonic accompaniment.

Measures 6-10 of the musical score. The melody continues with a quarter note C5, followed by a dotted quarter note D5, and then a half note E5. The bass line features a quarter note C3, followed by a dotted quarter note D3, and then a half note E3. The accompaniment remains simple and harmonic.

Measures 11-15 of the musical score. The melody includes a quarter note F5, followed by a dotted quarter note G5, and then a half note A5. The bass line has a quarter note F2, followed by a dotted quarter note G2, and then a half note A2. The music continues with a consistent harmonic accompaniment.

Measures 16-20 of the musical score. The melody concludes with a quarter note B5, followed by a dotted quarter note C6, and then a half note B5. The bass line ends with a quarter note B2, followed by a dotted quarter note C3, and then a half note B2. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Antioch CM and refrain:

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 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.