

What's the Good Word?

Creative
Communications
Sample



A Children's Christmas Service

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A Children's Christmas Service

Index

About the Series.....	5
Newsletter/Bulletin notices.....	6
Notes for Leaders.....	7-8
Order of Service.....	9-13
Complete Script For Worship Leaders.....	14-27
Meditation.....	28-29
Dramas.....	30-41
Prayers.....	42-44
Music Guide.....	45-63

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About the Service

In this children's service for Christmas on CD, a teacher and students explore "Christmas words" and words from God's Word to find the wonderful name of Jesus, the Word Made Flesh. The service includes hymns by the congregation and children, a brief meditation by the pastor, recitations from Scripture and simple, rhyming speaking parts that can be adapted to the number of children participating.

The CD includes a PDF of the order of service, the script and music as well as the text files of the entire kit in .rtf (rich text format) with a copyright release and a PowerPoint document with text for use on screens.

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Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Join us for a special children's Christmas service, as the youngest members of our congregation ask the question, "What's the Good Word?" Dramas in the service include a teacher and students exploring "Christmas words" and words from God's Word to find the wonderful name of Jesus, the Word Made Flesh. Through the singing of beloved Christmas carols, recitations from Scripture and simple rhymes everyone will come to know the Good Word is Jesus!

Bulletin Notice

"What's the Good Word?" the teacher and students will ask in this service. And the answer will come through the exploration of "Christmas words" and words from God's Word which reveal the Word Made Flesh—Jesus Christ our Lord. Enjoy celebrating with the children through song, Scripture and rhymes in this service, as we rejoice in the message of salvation Christ came to bring.

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Notes for Leaders

Speaking Parts and Songs: The pastor or another worship leader may read the Meditation. Older children may read the Bible passages in each section of the service (these passages may be divided by verses, if necessary, to allow for more readers). There are speaking parts for the teacher and student characters and rhyming parts for 34 other children (these parts may be combined as needed, for fewer speakers). Additional children's Christmas songs or choir anthems may be included in the service as needed.

Set, Costumes and Props: Four children are dressed as a teacher and 3 students. Set up a simple classroom scene in front of the chancel, with an easel for the over-sized "dictionary" and three student chairs. Punch three holes along the sides of large sheets of poster board. Use small metal rings to bind the poster board "pages" into a large "dictionary." On each page write (in large print, easily visible to the congregation) one of the fourteen key words—noted in bold print—used in the children's rhyming verses. If you wish, illustrate each word with colorful drawings, magazine pictures or photographs. The dictionary should be set up on the easel or similar stand. At the proper time in the service, a manger and simple bench for the nativity scene should be placed at the center of the chancel area.

Nativity Scene: Mary (with a doll representing baby Jesus), Joseph and as many angels and shepherds as needed should wear biblical costumes. They should come forward from the side or up the center aisle and take their places in the chancel area at the times designated during the service. At the close of the service, after the hymn “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” these costumed characters may lead the children’s recessional down the center aisle.

Words in Books: Advertise ahead of your Christmas services, asking families to bring new or gently used, unwrapped children’s books. Encourage families to donate Bible storybooks. Collect these books in the narthex before the service. Arrange for volunteers to deliver the books to local schools, hospitals or shelters.

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Order of Service

Processional Hymn Irby 87 87 77

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.

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 Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars his children, crowned, all in white, his praise shall sound!

Invocation

☞ We gather to worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Responsive Reading..... Isaiah 55:10-13

P For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth,

C Making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

P So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

C But it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

P For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;

C The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

P Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

C And it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Prayer

Congregation Hymn..... Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland 77 77

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, what the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, stands fulfilled in glory here.

Meditation: "The Name of Salvation"

Congregation Hymn..... Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland 77 77

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of two-fold race behold—truly came, as long foretold.

As your coming was in peace, quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me which is yours eternally.

Part 1: "Christmas Words"

Congregation Hymn.....Carol CMD

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.

Part 2: “Words from the Word”

Congregation Hymn..... St. Louis 86 86 76 86

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!

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 Emmanuel!

Part 3: “The Word Among Us” Begins

Congregation Hymn..... 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!

Part 3: "The Word Among Us" Continues

Congregation Hymn..... 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!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the glad tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
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!

Part 3: "The Word Among Us" Concludes

Hymn by the Children..... Away in a Manger 11 11 11 11

Part 4: "The Word and a Name"

Congregation Hymn..... 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.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth to the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall his people save."

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee helpless, O our God, to thee.

Offering

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Jesus, Word made flesh,

C **Hear our prayers and accept our praise.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

C **"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).**

P Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Recessional HymnMendelssohn 77 77 D

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye 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 newborn King!"
Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man 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 newborn King!"

What's the Good Word?

A Children's Christmas Service

Music Guide

Irby 87 87 77	46-47
Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland 77 77	48-49
Carol CMD	50-51
St. Louis 86 86 76 86	52-53
Greensleeves 87 87 68 67	54-55
Gloria 77 77 and refrain	56-57
Away in a Manger 11 11 11 11	58-59
Gott Sei Dank 77 77	60-61
Mendelssohn 77 77 D	62-63

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Irby 87 87 77:

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.

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 Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars his children, crowned, all in white, his praise shall sound!

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