

ARISE AND SHINE



*Shining  
Light*

CHRISTMAS DAY  
WORSHIP KIT

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ARISE AND SHINE

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*Shining  
Light*

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ARISE AND SHINE

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# *Shining Light*

## Notes and Ordering Information

This service for Christmas Day celebrates that Jesus, the Light of the world, lies in a manger in Bethlehem. He is our Light, the Light no darkness can overcome. Hymns in the service include “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” “What Child Is This” and “Joy to the World.” Use with the Arise and Shine series or alone.

*Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code ASN9A*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code ASN9B*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 14") are available. Code ASN9C*

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# *Shining Light*

## Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

### Newsletter Notice

Join us for Christmas Day to celebrate the shining Light of Christ that no darkness can overcome. Jesus Christ our Lord, lying in a manger, shines for us all. Carols, Scripture, a homily and prayers brighten our hearts with the Good News that we have salvation in the Babe of Bethlehem.

### Bulletin Notice

Merry Christmas! This day we celebrate the shining Light of Christ that no darkness can overcome. Jesus Christ our Lord, lying in a manger, shines for us all. Carols, Scripture, a homily and prayers brighten our hearts with the Good News that we have salvation in the Babe of Bethlehem.

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!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Offering

Prayers

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

**P** Let the light of our Savior shine in us.

**C** Let there be light!

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn ..... Joy to the World (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 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.

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# Shining Light

## Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/nativity-in-the-desert-gm888187960-246406602>

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor alone or with the congregation at the start of the service or reflected upon silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:3*

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☐ Amen.

**P** Arise, shine, for your light has come!

**C** **And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you!**

**P** The light shines in the darkness,

**C** **But the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

**C** **We proclaim the praises of him,**

**P** Who called us out of darkness—

**C** **Into his marvelous light!**

- The **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!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word 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!

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the congregation and the pastor:

☐ Lord Jesus, we are thankful for this opportunity to celebrate your birth. Yet we must confess that much of the newness has worn off. The angels' message has grown old in our hearts, and your birth has become more of a sentimental tradition for us to observe rather than the life-changing reality in which you invite us to participate.

☑ **Lord, we are hurting because of it. Our hearts feel empty and alone. Our spirits remain restless and unsatisfied. Our souls are weighed down by nagging guilt and haunting fears. Lord, we need the assurance of your love. We need to know your forgiveness. Savior, we need to experience your peace, power and joy.**

☐ God has heard our confession and answers with these words: "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Believe and receive the good news of Christ's full and forever forgiveness—flowing to you from the manger, the cross and the empty tomb. Arise, shine, for your light has come!

☑ **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!**

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

☐ Heavenly Father, may the birth of Jesus empower us on this holy day to worship in your light, rejoice in your light and spread the light of your love throughout the world, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

☐ What are your favorite kinds of Christmas lights? Do you like lights on trees? Lights in windows? Lights that decorate houses? (*Allow the children to respond.*) What are your favorite other kinds of lights? (*Allow the children to respond.*) There are flashlights, nightlights, streetlights and spotlights. When I was a child, I loved flashlights on camping trips and nightlights when I woke up in the middle of the night and felt lost in my home. It's amazing what lights can do! They light up our darkness.

Did you know that God loves light? The Bible says that when God created everything, there was darkness over the face of the deep. Then what did God do? God spoke! God spoke his first words in the Bible. God said, "Let there be light!" Aren't you glad? Without light we can't see a thing. Without light we can't live. We need light—God's light!

That is the plan for the rest of the Bible. Wherever there is darkness, God's Word brings light!



Here are some examples. Isaiah 60:1, “Arise, shine, for your light has come!” Matthew 2:2, “We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.” Luke 2:32, “A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

Jesus is the Light of the world. He was born a tiny baby in Bethlehem. But Jesus didn’t stay a little baby. He grew up, and in a carpenter shop he learned how to work. Jesus also began to share all he knew about God’s love with others. That love took Jesus to a cross, where he died to take away our sins. He was buried, but after three days, though, the darkness of Christ’s death gave way to the light of life!

Jesus lives to defeat the darkness of our sin. Jesus lives to bring the light of his love into the darkness of our fears. Every time we get scared by the darkness, do you know what Jesus says? “Let there be light!” And there is light! Every single time!

Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the world. Help us to shine with your light so that others will come to worship you as their Lord and Savior. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Narodil Se Kristus Pán* 74 74 and refrain:

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia! For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us; Christ, his Son, to save us.

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia! He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us; Christ, his Son, to save us.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Genesis 1:1-5, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep

them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 1:1-14, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 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.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Mendelssohn 77 77 D and refrain:

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!"

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!"

- If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: [worshiphousemedia.com](http://worshiphousemedia.com)) is presented on a screen at this time to highlight the theme of the service:

<https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/42286/the-light-of-christmas>

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

Ⓟ “You have my word!” It’s easy to become skeptical when someone says that to us—when they give us their word. Why is that? Because we live in a world of broken promises and empty vows. Pledges are made, only to be forgotten. Assurances are given, then ignored. Words can be spoken with great fanfare. “I’ll always love you.” “We’re BFFL—best friends for life!” “You can count on me!” “Till death do us part.” But words can be autumn leaves in November’s wind. That’s why we’re a bit skeptical when someone says, “You have my word!”

It’s different, though, when God speaks. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep” (Genesis 1:1–2). What does God do? God speaks, “‘Let there be light,’ and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). When God speaks his Word, it’s not mere talk about something. It does what he says. We have his Word!

What a powerful Word! Consider these verses that extol the power of God’s Word. Isaiah 40:8, “Grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 55:11, “My word will not return to me empty.” The most powerful force in the world is God’s Word!

God’s Word called Abraham from Ur in the land of the Chaldeans, spoke to Moses from a burning bush, gave manna and quail in the wilderness, thundered from Sinai and spoke to Elijah in a still, small voice. God’s Word even made dry bones come to life, standing on their feet, a vast army! Just ask Ezekiel! God said it. That settles it. Faith believes it! We have his Word! We have God’s Word!

God’s Word is more than an element of speech, an ink mark, a sound or an idea. The all-powerful, creative word that said, “Let there be light”—that Word became flesh. That’s what John writes in today’s Gospel lesson. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

John could have written, “The Word became a body” or “The Word became a man.” He might have said, “The Word became a person” or “The Word became a human being.” Instead, John writes, “The Word became flesh.”

When the term was connected to the idea of a god, sophisticated Greeks and Romans of John’s day recoiled from the word flesh. Flesh, to them, is doomed to be destroyed. What mattered the most to them was our spirit. Flesh was worth nothing. No god in his right mind would ever deal with anything as degrading as flesh. Yet this is exactly what our God did. The Word—the Son of God and God the Son—became flesh. We have God’s Word!

The Word who became flesh is no ordinary baby cradled in Mary’s arms. He saw the first ray of sunlight at creation and heard the first crash of a wave when God gathered the sea waters together to form the oceans. “The Word was with God and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Did

you catch that? “The Word was God.” The same God who said, “Let there be light,” became flesh in the body of a Jewish peasant girl named Mary.

Mary and Joseph had no savings account or connections with the right kinds of people. Jesus, the Maker of the universe, the one who spoke it all into existence, was born into a family too poor to secure a bed for pregnant mother. “There was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7). Look! There, in Bethlehem, the Word became flesh!

The Word, though, didn’t change into flesh. The Word didn’t morph into flesh. The Word didn’t transition into flesh. That is not what John writes. If the Word changed, morphed or transitioned into flesh he would no longer be God. But remaining what he was, Christ Jesus became what we are. Remaining what he was—God—Christ became what we are—flesh.

John drives this point home when he writes about Jesus on trial before Pontius Pilate. Pilate has Jesus’ flesh torn, dressed in purple and crowned with thorns. Then he brings Jesus out before the crowd and says, “Behold the man!” (John 19:5). Here is the man. Flesh and blood, a beaten body. This is God we are talking about. The God who is dismissed, demeaned and left for dead. But not for long!

Isaiah says that God’s Word endures forever (Isaiah 40:8) and it accomplishes that for which God sends it (Isaiah 55:10–11). God’s Word defeats the darkness. God’s Word defeats death! John outruns Peter to the tomb, looks in and believes (John 20:3–8). Jesus says, “Mary,” and Mary Magdalene cries out, “Rabboni!” (John 20:16). The Emmaus disciples recognize the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:30–31). And when he sees the Savior’s flesh marked with scars, Thomas exclaims, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Sin is forgiven. The grave is defeated. Death is dead.

Funeral eulogies often include phrases such as, “She’ll always live on in my heart.” “I’ll remember him forever.” The disciples didn’t say that. The disciples never said that. That’s because they saw Jesus in the flesh—flesh marked with scars. We have God’s living Word! “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

What is your darkness today? A missed opportunity? A flunked exam? Did your marriage go south? Did your spouse die? Did your business go under? Did you make a bad decision? What is the darkness that won’t go away? What have you done that makes you feel damned forever by the darkness? Jesus is the solution for every kind of darkness. I’ll say that again. Jesus Christ is the solution for every kind of darkness!

In John 8:12 the Savior says, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever walks in darkness will have the light of life.” John 8:12 includes one of the most wonderful pronouns in the Bible. After all, who isn’t a whoever? When we feel as though God’s light isn’t for us, we have God’s

Tune.....Adeste Fideles Irregular meter

Measures 1-5 of the piece. The music is in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody in the treble clef begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G. The bass line starts with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G.

Measures 6-10. The melody continues with a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G. The bass line continues with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G.

Measures 11-16. The melody continues with a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G. The bass line continues with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G.

Measures 17-20. The melody continues with a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G. The bass line continues with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G.

- The **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!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word 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!

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# *Shining Light*

## Contemporary Music Song Suggestions

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“Let There Be Light” by Brooke Ligertwood, Joel Houston, Jonas Myrin, Matt Crocker, Michael Guy Chislett and Scott Ligertwood

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” by Kathleen Thomerson

“Shine on Us” by Deborah D. Smith and Michael W. Smith

“Light of the World” by Eric Richey and Jamie Slocum

“Here I Am to Worship” by Tim Hughes

“Here in the Darkness Shines” by Billy McVay

“Midnight Clear (Love Song)” by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash and Jonas Myrin

“Shine” by Marc James and Tre Sheppard

“Light of the World” by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan and Paul Mabury