

Arise and Shine



A Children's
Christmas Service

Arise and Shine Children's Christmas Service

Notes For Leaders

—Speaking Parts—

There are six sections with a total of 83 lines that can be assigned to three or more children. Lines noted for “parent” character can be assigned to a girl and boy playing the role of a mom and dad. At least 2 children play the role of “siblings.” If there is a large number of children available for speaking parts, different children can be assigned to each of the six sections. There are also 16 Scripture readings (indicated by an **R** in the script), which can be read by one or more child(ren) or an adult. Longer readings can also be broken up to accommodate the number of parts needed. Children can be dressed in robes and slippers or modern-day, casual or “Christmas best” clothing.

—Children's Songs—

Songs by children are indicated in the script and include “Silent Night, Holy Night,” “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and “God Loves Me Dearly” (for the youngest children). Additionally, children can be assigned verses for congregational hymns, if desired. All children with speaking and non-speaking parts should gather to sing in a designated area.

—Setting the Stage—

A living room set-up including various sources of light (see details below) serves as the stage. The following items should be included in the set:

- A Christmas tree with lights (LED lights preferred)
- A sofa or a few chairs (some kids can sit on floor next to the tree)
- One or two end tables (actual end tables can be used, or stools covered with round table cloths or card tables with table cloths are possible substitutes. A coffee table could also be used in addition to or in place of one of the two end tables)

Sources of light to be used on the stage are as follows:

- Table lamp (plugged in and placed on one of the end tables)
- Star for top of Christmas tree (to be placed on tree at specific time as indicated in the script)
- Flashlight (preferably a cell phone flashlight which one child can have with him/her)
- Christmas-scented candle (placed on an end table. If using two end tables, place on the opposite one used for table lamp. Candle to be lit at specific time)

as indicated in script. May substitute a battery-operated candle and pretend to light it with lighter when indicated)

- Christmas tree lights (LED preferred-on Christmas tree. Should be on from beginning to end of service)
- Hand-held mirror (wrapped in gift box under tree, to be opened at specific time as indicated in the script)

Other props needed are as follows:

- A variety of wrapped gifts (may be empty boxes of various sizes and shapes) placed under the Christmas tree
- Nativity set placed on an end table (the baby Jesus figure should be wrapped in a tiny box under the tree and opened at specific time as indicated in script)
 - Lighter (to light candle, placed next to candle)
- Step stool (if needed) for child to place star on top of tree when indicated
- Coffee mugs (optional) held by parent characters or placed on end/coffee table
 - Area rug (optional)

—Nativity Tableau—

The script calls for costumed nativity characters including Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men. Instructions are included as to when these characters should enter and exit. The nativity tableau is optional, but if using, a manger with a doll representing baby Jesus should be used. It can be set up on either side of the living room set-up as space allows.

Arise and Shine Children's Christmas Service

+ Order of Service +

Pre-service Music

As We Gather

Take notice of the sources of light around you. How does each source serve a different purpose? As you prepare to worship, pray that everyone here will take notice of the many ways Jesus—the Light of the World—shines in our lives.

Processional Hymn.....Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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.
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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:
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Call to Worship

(based on Isaiah 60 and John 1)

P Arise! Shine! For your light has come. And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

C The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

P Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.

C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P Arise! Shine! For your light has come.

C Our Light is Jesus! We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Lord, shine upon all who worship this day, especially the children who lead us. Let them radiate your light through the Gospel message they share. Amen.

A Meditation

- P** Have you ever driven through a Christmas light display? Lights surround you—some flashing in coordination to music; some depicting various themes; some outlining trees and buildings with brilliant colors. It's interesting how crowded these displays can be and yet nobody gets impatient. They forget the stress of the holiday season and pause to be present in the moment, taking in every detail of the display. There are many light displays around, but there is one you don't want to miss. That is the light of Jesus displayed in many ways, and in every corner of our lives. His rising light shines hope into our despair. His glorious light overshadows our fear with peace. His shining light reveals God's truth in his Word. His healing light shines into our pain, our grief and our sin-sick lives. His eternal light shines God's promise of abundant life with him—today and forever. And his reflective light is seen in us as we share his good news with others. So, arise! Shine! Your light has come! Leave all the distractions behind. Enjoy the display of Jesus' light which our children will reflect.

Rising Light

(Children are gathered in living room setting, next to Christmas tree. One or two children playing role of parent[s] enter, yawning and rubbing sleepy eyes.)

- _____ 1. Rise and shine, Mom and Dad! *(Turn on lamp on table).*
- _____ 2. *(parent, shielding eyes from light)* Ooh! Bright light! OK. I'm up.
- _____ 3. That's good, because it's Christmas! We have a lot to do, like open presents, go to church, eat our Christmas dinner, open presents ...
- _____ 4. *(parent)* If only you were this eager to wake up on school days!
- _____ 5. We don't have to go out in the cold to wait for the school bus today.
- _____ 6. Yeah. It's easy to wake up on Christmas. It's a day for celebration. And did I mention there are presents to be opened?
- _____ 7. *(parent)* You're right. Thanks for the wake-up call.
- _____ 8. *(proudly)* I was inspired by the prophet Isaiah. *(opening Bible)* We read Isaiah, chapter 60 in Sunday school last week.

- R** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will rise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you (Isaiah 60:1-2).



Arise and Shine

Isaiah told us long ago to arise and shine as we prepare for our Savior to come. Scripture verses, recitations and songs by the children in this service help us to shine as lights in this world as we point others to the Light of Christ who has come to us as a Babe in Bethlehem. A living room stage set-up includes different types of lights that remind us of Christ's light. Hymns include "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice."

By Sandi Geis. Art by Lindsay Taylor. © 2019 by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. ASNV