

ARISE AND SHINE

A hand holding a lit candle against a starry night sky. The candle is lit, and the flame is bright. The background is a dark blue and purple gradient with several bright stars. The entire scene is framed by a thin gold border.

*Glorious  
Light*

CHRISTMAS EVE  
WORSHIP KIT

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ARISE AND SHINE

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# *Glorious Light*

## Notes and Ordering Information

The glory of the Lord filled the dark sky over Bethlehem. With angels and shepherds, we can share the good news—Christ is born! This candlelight service for Christmas Eve reveals the glorious light of our little Lord Jesus. Hymns in the service include “Angels From the Realms of Glory,” “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child,” “The People That in Darkness Sat,” and “Silent Night.”

Use with the Arise and Shine series or alone.

*Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code ASN8A*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code ASN8B*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 14") are available. Code ASN8C*

*Call Creative Communications for the Parish at*

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# *Glorious Light*

## Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

### Newsletter Notice

Join us for Christmas Eve to celebrate the glorious light that filled the dark sky over Bethlehem and the glory of the Lord revealed in the Christ Child born to us. Candlelight, carols, Scripture, a homily and prayers reveal the Good News that the Light of the World has come. With shepherds and angels let us rejoice!

### Bulletin Notice

Merry Christmas! This night we celebrate the glorious light that filled the dark sky over Bethlehem and the glory of the Lord revealed in the Christ Child born to us. Candlelight, carols, Scripture, a homily and prayers reveal the Good News that the Light of the World has come. With shepherds angels let us rejoice!

Prayers

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

**P** Light of the world,

**C** Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Lord's Prayer

The Lighting of the Candles

Hymn ..... Silent Night (Stille Nacht 66 88 66)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Benediction

Hymn ..... Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (In Dulci Jubilo 66 66 66 55)

Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er us through sin and vanity  
Till he opened for us a bright eternity.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing with all his saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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# *Glorious 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-scene-gm887830546-246355853>

- 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:

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2*

- 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 people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

**P** To us a child is born. To us a son is given.

**C** **And the government will be upon his shoulders, and he will be called**

**P** Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**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 Regent Square 87 87 87:

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship; come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the Infant Light.  
Come and worship; come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship; come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

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

**P** The Holy Spirit has shone the light of God's love into our hearts, giving us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by the coming of Christ in the flesh. Let us, therefore, go to God's throne of grace, confessing our sins.

**C** **Wonderful Counselor, we confess that we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. We have let the gloom of the nations and the difficulties of our personal lives blind us to the light of your love. Forgive us. Mighty God, we confess that we have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin. We have failed to**

**recognize you as glorious Lord over all. Forgive us. Everlasting Father, we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love that prompted Christ to become one of us to die for us. We have not always sought to live in your light. Forgive us. Prince of Peace, we confess that we have not recognized the peace that you have brought to our discordant lives. It does not fill our hearts and minds. Forgive us.**

☐ To us a Child is born; to us God's Son is given! Christ's eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of his mercy and forgiveness. All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 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:

☐ O God, you make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; 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 would you like for Christmas? (*Allow the children to respond.*) One Christmas my parents gave me a kaleidoscope.

A kaleidoscope looks a little bit like a telescope. But when you look through it you see bright, beautiful colors and shapes, like a stained glass window in church. Everything sparkles and glows!

What is the one thing needed to enjoy a kaleidoscope? It is the same thing needed to enjoy a stained glass window in church. Light! That's right, light! Without light, the kaleidoscope is full of darkness. Without light, the stained glass window is dark. There is no color, no beauty. You can't see a thing!

Christmas is all about light! That's what our Bible verse says, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). And what a great light it is! There were shepherds in the fields watching over their sheep that night and an angel came to tell them that Jesus is born in Bethlehem. The Bible then says, "The glory of the Lord shone around them" (Luke 2:9). That's a great light. Then some wise men from the east saw a star and followed the star to Jesus. That's a great light! No wonder Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12).

Jesus is a great light for everyone walking in darkness. That includes us. Sin—the things we do that break God's Word—brings us into the darkness. But Jesus was born in Bethlehem for us. He came to grow up and die on the cross for us and rise from the dead. His death and



resurrection show his unending love for us! Jesus is the great Light who lets us see the beauty of God's love shining on us.

Thank God for Jesus! Thank God that Jesus' light shines on us and in us and through us. Just like a kaleidoscope or a stained glass window, we are now full of beauty. Merry Christmas!

Jesus, thank you for coming to be our Savior and our Light. Help us to shine with your beauty and love. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Tempus Adest Floridum 76 76 D:

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the Undefined, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined but no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 9:1-7, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have

broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 2:1-20, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "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." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this

child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen 86 866:

The people that in darkness sat a glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long in shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.

To us, a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n,  
And on his shoulder ever rests all pow'r in earth and heav'n,  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art and Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

- 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/56908/light-of-christmas>

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:
  - Charles Dickens' novel, *A Christmas Carol*, is about Ebenezer Scrooge and how his heart was changed one Christmas. It's a story that makes us feel good because "they all lived happily ever after." But the lines from another one of Dickens' novels more accurately describe the way Christmas feels for many of us. He begins *A Tale of Two Cities* with these infamous words:

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of unbelief. It was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness. It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. We had everything before us and we had nothing before us.*

Christmas is a time of contrasts. It's a time of prosperity and a time of poverty. It's a season of good will and a season of ugly greed. Christmas is a time of family togetherness and a time of excruciating loneliness. It's a season of light and it's a season of darkness. Christmas is the spring of hope and Christmas is the winter of acute despair.

Don't get me wrong. We all want Christmas to be the best of times. That's why we decorate and donate, and shop until we drop. We put up trees, hang tinsel, cook turkeys and put together all kinds of toys. We all want a holly, jolly Christmas. But let's be honest. As much as we want Christmas to be the best of times, sometimes it is the worst of times.

Our reading from Isaiah 9 resonates with *A Tale of Two Cities*. The prophet's message is also one of contrasts—it was the season of light and the season of darkness. “The people who walked in darkness . . . those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness” (Isaiah 9:2). The people sitting in the dark included the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali—the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles (Isaiah 9:1). Zebulun and Naphtali were two of Jacob's twelve sons who went down to Egypt where, along with their brothers, they became a great nation. After 430 years, God rescued them and, after another forty years, gave them their inheritance in the Promised Land—beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles.

Fast-forward 700 years to Isaiah's day when the Assyrian army attacked these northern tribes, defeated their armies, leveled their cities and exiled many of them to distant lands. It was the worst of times! Zebulun and Naphtali walked in darkness and dwelt in a land of deep darkness.

We all know about deep darkness! Some have spent too much money, again, and we are worried sick about our financial future. Others are struggling with health, or the health of a loved one—wondering if this might be their last Christmas. Some are wrestling with old hurts that won't heal and new wounds that won't go away. Still others are missing loved ones this Christmas—either because of distance, because of death or because of cruel design.

There is an even more foreboding darkness. John 3:19 explains it this way, “This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” Too often, we love the darkness of self-centered narcissism; live in the darkness of lies and half-truths; and long for more of the darkness that feeds the sinful desires of our flesh.

Is this the end of the story? Not on your life! Here is all of Isaiah 9:2, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined” (Isaiah 9:2). This is not just any ordinary light. Isaiah calls it a great light!

The first light to shine in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali was Gideon, who defeated 120,000 Midianites with his army of 300 men. Judges 7:20 describes it this way, “Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, ‘A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!’” Three hundred torches! What a light!

Soon another light would shine on Zebulun and Naphtali. King Josiah marched north with the burning torch of his newfound scroll of God's Word (2 Kings 23:19). “A lamp to his feet and a light for his path” (Psalm 119:105). Josiah reclaimed Zebulun and Naphtali, reformed their

Tune..... Regent Square 87 87 87

Measures 1-5 of the piece. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The bass clef accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern.

Measures 6-9 of the piece. The melody continues with some chromatic movement and rests. The bass clef accompaniment remains consistent with the previous section.

Measures 10-13 of the piece. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The bass clef accompaniment provides harmonic support throughout.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Regent Square 87 87 87:

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship; come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the Infant Light.  
Come and worship; come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship; come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

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ARISE AND SHINE

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# *Glorious 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

“Silent Night” by Chris Tomlin, Franz Xavier Gruber, Gabe Scott, John Freeman Young, Joseph Mohr and Matt Gilder

“What a Glorious Night” by Ben McDonald, Casey Brown, David Frey and Jonathan Smith