

WORSHIP KIT

A Family Tree of Royalty

A Children's
Christmas
Service



A Family Tree of Royalty

A Children's Christmas Service

Index

Notes	5
Notes for Leaders	6-7
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices	8
Order of Service	9-14
Complete Script For Worship Leaders	15-30
Music Guide	31-51

A Family Tree of Royalty

A Children's Christmas Service Notes

In this children's service for Christmas Eve, the children share with us their research about Jesus' family tree. It is a family tree that became our own when we were adopted by faith into God's family. We are children of the King!

A Family Tree of Royalty

A Children's Christmas Service

Notes for Leaders

Speaking Parts and Songs: The pastor or another worship leader may lead the responsive reading and prayer of the day and deliver the meditation. Children may read the Bible passages in each section of the children's presentation; these passages may be divided as necessary to allow for more readers. There are parts for three main characters (Speakers 1, 2 and 3) and rhyming parts for younger children (these rhymes 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: The three main characters, Speakers 1, 2 and 3, should wear casual clothing. Props include a large poster of a Christmas tree shape with mostly empty branches and a few small ornaments (see sample tree images for ideas from Shutterstock.com: 154082072, 722015515 or 745212940). You will also need large circles in bright colors, prepared with the names of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jesse, David, Bathsheba, Ahaz, Joseph, Mary and the actual names of the three Speakers (written in large, black letters easily visible to the congregation); one large, yellow star with the name of Jesus; and a small table or bench with a Bible, rolls of double-stick tape, scissors, extra paper circles and a laptop. A manger and a simple bench for the nativity scene should be nearby to be placed in the chancel area at the appropriate time in the service.

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. After the hymn “Silent Night,” these costumed characters may return to their seats.

Royal Gifts: Advertise ahead of your Advent and Christmas services, asking people to bring toddler and infant care items, such as disposable diapers, socks, clothing, blankets and age-appropriate toys and stuffed animals (items should not be gift wrapped). Collect the donations in the narthex before each service. Arrange for volunteers to deliver the gifts to a local shelter, home for unwed mothers or similar organization. Bring gifts for children in the name of the holy Child who is the King of kings!

A Family Tree of Royalty

A Children's Christmas Service

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Come and worship with us on Christmas Eve as the children of our congregation present the story of Jesus' birth with songs and recitations and Scripture readings in the service "Family Tree of Royalty." As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our King and Savior, we rejoice to know that we too are children of the King!

Bulletin Notice

In our worship tonight we will rejoice with the children of our congregation as they tell us the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus our Savior, the King of kings. Adopted into God's family through Baptism, we are part of the Family Tree of Royalty. We are all children of the King!

A Family Tree of Royalty

A Children's Christmas Service

Order of Service

Processional HymnO Come, All Ye Faithful (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!

Invocation and Responsive Reading (Isaiah 11:1-2, 6)

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

C Amen.

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C And a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,

C The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

P The Spirit of counsel and might,

C The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord ...

P The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

C And the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

P And the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

C And a little child shall lead them.

P Come and behold him born the King of angels!

C O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Hymn by the Congregation.....Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (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 undefiled, 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!

Meditation

Hymn by the Congregation.....Angels We Have Heard on High (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.

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.

The Presentation by the Children

Part 1: The Family Tree

Drama

Scripture ReadingGenesis 12:1-3

Recitation

Drama

Scripture Reading2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14

Recitation

Drama

Scripture ReadingIsaiah 7:10-14

Hymn by the Congregation.....O Little Town of Bethlehem (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 Immanuel.

Part 2: The House and Lineage of David

Drama

Song by the Children Once in Royal David's City (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.

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7

Recitation

Song by the Children Away in a Manger (Away in a Manger 11 11 11 11)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

Reading Luke 2:8-20

Recitation

Hymn by the Congregation 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.

Part 3: Royal DNA

Drama

Scripture Reading Galatians 4:4-7

Drama

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 2:9-10

Recitation

Song by the Children Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (W Zlobie Lezy 447 447 4444 77)

Drama

Hymn by the Congregation Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (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!"

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 the 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!"

Closing Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Benediction (1 Peter 2:9)

P You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,

C **That you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the holy Child of Bethlehem, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Recessional 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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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.shutterstock.com/image-vector/cute-holy-family-manger-characters-vector-1541766239>

- The **Processional Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Adeste Fideles* Irregular meter:

[The children, except for the three main speakers and the nativity scene characters, may enter during the opening hymn.]

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!

- The **Invocation and Responsive Reading** (Isaiah 11:1-2, 6) is spoken responsively by the congregation and the pastor:

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

C Amen.

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C And a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,

C The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

P The Spirit of counsel and might,

C The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord ...

P The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

C And the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

P And the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

C And a little child shall lead them.

P Come and behold him born the King of angels!

C O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!