



WAIT UPON THE LORD

The Lord
IS *Come*



A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

The Lord Is Come

A Service for Christmas Eve

And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.

—Luke 2:7

W O R S H I P K I T



The Lord IS *Come*

A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

IN THIS KIT

Notes/Ordering Information	5
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices	6
Order of Service.....	7-11
Complete Script For Leaders.....	12-21
Scripture Readings	22-23
Children's Sermon	24-25
Sermon.....	26-29
Prayers.....	30
Music Guide	31-40

By Reed Lessing. Art and design: Lindsay Taylor. © 2021 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. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship.



The Lord IS *Come*

A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

ABOUT “THE LORD IS COME”

Welcome the Lord with this worship service for Christmas Eve. After our long Advent waiting, the Lord is come—into our lives, into our homes and into our hearts. It’s time to celebrate his birth as our Savior and Friend. Hymns in the service include “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising,” “From Heaven Above,” “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World.” Use with the Wait Upon the Lord series or alone.

Blank bulletins (8 1/2” x 11”) are available. Code WLD18A

Blank bulletins (8 1/2” x 14”) are available. Code WLD18B

Call Creative Communications for the Parish at

1-800-325-9414 for current prices and availability.

Or visit us online at www.creativecommunications.com



The Lord IS *Come*

A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us as we welcome the Lord on Christmas Eve. After our long Advent waiting, the Lord is come—into our lives, into our homes and into our hearts. Through word, Scripture and song, it will be a time to celebrate his birth as our Savior and Friend.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome the Lord with us this Christmas Eve. After our long Advent waiting, the Lord is come—into our lives, into our homes and into our hearts. In word, Scripture and song, now is the time to celebrate his birth as our Savior and Friend.



The Lord IS *Come*

A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

ORDER OF SERVICE

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C Amen.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C For unto us a Son is given.

P To us a Son is born.

C And the government shall be upon his shoulder.

P And his name shall be called—

C Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

P Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C Let us worship the newborn King!

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 **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Vom Himmel Hoch LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

“From heav’n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all need shall aid afford;
He will himself your Savior be from all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow prepared by God for all below,
That in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.

“These are the tokens ye shall mark: the swaddling clothes and manger dark;
There ye shall find the Infant laid by whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

Now let us all with gladsome cheer go with the shepherds and draw near
To see the precious Gift of God, who hath his own dear Son bestowed.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be a quiet chamber kept for thee.

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

Ⓟ This sermon is about two words. Two simple words. Two words that we frequently use. Both words are small. Each word has just one syllable.

The angel gives us these Gospel words in Luke 2:10, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Did you catch them? Our two words? They are “joy” and “all.” “Joy” and “all” come in the context of what? Fear. Luke 2:9 calls it “great fear.”

And why is that? Imagine just doing your job one evening and then suddenly—from out of nowhere—an angel of the Lord appears. Then the glory of the Lord shines bright, all around you. Little wonder that the angel said to these startled shepherds, “Fear not.”

We can relate with the shepherds “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). Often, though, it’s not an abrupt angel that shakes us up—it’s the future. What will the new year be like? Will my children be safe? Will I have enough money? Will I stay healthy? What about my job and my investments? Then there are North Korea and Iran—and don’t forget China and Russia. The technical name for this is chronophobia—fear of the future. Chronophobia causes us to make bad decisions, form bad habits, and get into bad relationships.

What are our options?

We can refuse to get up in the morning, but that would not be a good use of the gift of the day that God has in store for us. We can cover our windows and not go out, but that would intensify our fear of anything the outside might hold. Experts tell us that fear of the future leads to risk-lock. Risk-lock? Risk-lock is a condition, which—like gridlock—leaves us unable to do anything or go anywhere. But our Lord has a better option for us.

Fear is overcome by joy. There’s our first word. Joy! “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10). The angel doesn’t just announce joy. He announces great joy. Why? “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). The infant child is the Savior of sinners. He is the long-awaited Christ, or Messiah, from the house and lineage of David. The angel adds a third title to Jesus. Jesus is Lord.

“Lord.” Let that sink in. Jesus, the long-awaited Savior and Messiah, is one with the Eternal God. The Nicene Creed puts it this way. Christ is “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God. Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father.” Jesus is Lord.

But when he arrived, Jesus looked nothing like the Lord. There was a manger, some straw, a few shepherds, Mary, and Joseph. Jesus cries, naps, sleeps, burps, and needs his mother.

Jesus came down to a manger. True. But it was so he could go further down—to a cross. There, on a God-forsaken cross, the Lord was abandoned by his countrymen. He was abandoned by his followers. Jesus was abandoned, finally, by his Father. The Savior, Christ, the Lord, did it all to conquer death and replace our fear with joy—great joy!

Please hear what I’m about to say. It’s very important. There is a huge difference between happiness and joy. They are not synonymous terms. Health and wealth and family and friends are blessings from God. They make us happy. But—and this is a big but—they are not essential for joy. Why is that? Happiness is determined by what’s going on around me. I can’t control that. Joy is determined by what’s going on inside of me. And God has taken control of that. He sent Jesus—the Lord.