

Be Born
IN US **Today**



A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE



A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Index

Notes for Leaders	5-7
Order of Service	8-11
Complete Script.....	12-24
Music Guide	25-39



A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Notes for Leaders

Speaking Parts

There are six sections with a total of 71 lines that can be assigned to four or more children. One child should be assigned the part marked as “Mom” and another child the part marked as “Dad.” At least two additional children can play the parts 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 12 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 may also be assigned as “Leaders” (indicated by an **L** in the script) of the liturgy and prayers. Characters can be dressed in modern-day clothes. “Mom,” who is expecting a baby, can wear loose fitting clothing, if desired.

Children's Songs

Songs by children are indicated in the script and include "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World" and "Away in a Manger" (for 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.

Centerpiece Display

A living room scene with a full-sized manger (*being built by the "Dad"*) serves as the set.

This should include a Christmas tree, chairs and/or a sofa and coffee or end tables, if available. The manger should be in a prominent place in the living room scene. The manger should be filled with hay and/or blocks to make a platform for gifts to be placed and displayed for the congregation to see. A hammer for "Dad" is needed as he pretends to put the final touches on the manger. Baby shower gifts needed for the centerpiece will be placed in the manger as indicated in the script.

The following "baby shower gifts" can be borrowed from church members ahead of time for use in this service.

- Gift box wrapped with baby shower wrapping paper.
- Basket with bubble bath, herbal tea bags and a mug (as a gift that might be given to pamper a new new mom)
- Night light
- Children's Bible
- High chair (or a booster chair)
- Cross for hanging on a wall

Nativity Tableau

The script calls for costumed nativity characters including Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper, angels and shepherds. Instructions are included in the script as to when these characters should enter and exit. The nativity tableau is optional, but if using, another manger with a doll representing baby Jesus should be used. If another manger is not available, an area can be set up with hay or blankets for Mary and Joseph to sit on while holding a baby doll. The scene for the tableau can be set up on either side of the Living Room set as space allows. An alternative to a live tableau would be to project images of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels and baby Jesus on a screen as indicated in the script.



A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Order of Service

Pre-Service Music

As We Gather

As we prepare for worship, imagine how expectant parents, filled with questions and excitement, contemplate how a baby will change their lives. How does the birth of Jesus change our lives? Pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today."

Processional Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

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.

Invocation and Call to Worship
(with selections from, Isaiah 9 and Luke 1)

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

C Amen.

L To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

C Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today.

L His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today.

L He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

C Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today.

Prayer of the Day

A Meditation

Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Blessing

Song by Congregation..... Once He Came in Blessing

Once he came in blessing, all our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; hope and freedom gave us.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, that we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess you till in heav'n we bless you.

Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Renewal

Song by Young ChildrenAway in a Manger

Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Light

Song by ChildrenHark! The Herald Angels Sing

Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Power

Song by Young ChildrenJoy to the World

Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Guidance

Song by Congregation.....What Child is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be born for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Salvation

Offering

Closing Prayer

☐ Thank you, Jesus, for sending these children, your messengers, to bring your Word to us this day. May this good news help us embrace the blessings you bring that change our lives now and for eternity. Send us now to spread the word concerning all that we have been told, so that others may bow down to worship you too. Amen.

Benediction

☞ I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. A Savior is born in us today. He is Christ the Lord. He brings blessing, renewal, light, power, guidance and salvation. Expect him and worship him every day. Amen.

Recessional Hymn..... O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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!