



BE BORN  
IN US  
*Today*

*Family Worship*





# *Family Worship*

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# *Family Worship*

## ABOUT THE SERIES

In this Advent worship series for families, we are reminded that Christ is with us. He enters into our homes to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence as we grow closer to one another. The theme verse for the entire series is: 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 (Isaiah 9:6).

**Week 1 • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Blessing (Genesis 12:2):** God promises Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. When Jesus was born, that promise came true with abundance. As a craft, families build a family tree.

**Week 2 • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Renewal (Isaiah 40:31):** The prophet Isaiah declared that a Holy One from God would be born into this world to bring renewal to all the faint and weary. Christ's birth restores our strength that we might serve him. Families make posters highlighting Isaiah 40:31.

**Week 3 • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Guidance (Psalm 31:3):** The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years, often doubting God's plan for them. With the arrival of Jesus on the scene, we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way. Families make lantern ornaments.

**Week 4 • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Power (Exodus 15:6):** We point to the power of God present when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. As we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus, we point to the power at work in our lives through our Emmanuel, God with us. Families make "Crossing the Red Sea" displays.



# *Family Worship*

## HOW TO USE THE SERIES

### WORSHIP PLANNING

**Invocation:** After the Opening Song, we begin our worship in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who created and redeemed us and who makes us his holy people.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath:** The four candles on the Advent wreath include three purple or blue and one pink or rose. The pink candle, a sign of joy, is lit the third week in Advent.

**Confession and Absolution:** Advent is a season of waiting but also a time of repentance. We confess our sins, admitting that we need the forgiveness of the Savior who was born for us.

**Scripture Readings:** Brief readings from the Old Testament, Epistles and the Gospels express the theme for the worship service.

**Message:** The message is for children of all ages, toddlers to adults.

**Family Advent Craft:** Individuals and families work together to create a simple project based on the week's theme. If your worship setting does not allow space for such activities, instructions and supplies for the project can be sent home with the participants. If the projects are done at home, participants may wish to bring their completed crafts to share at the service the following week.

**Family Advent Conversation:** While they work on their craft projects, individuals and family members discuss questions based on the theme for the week. A handout with the discussion questions may also be sent home at the end of the service.

**Offering Prayer:** After the Offering is gathered, a prayer is spoken responsively.

**Benediction:** At the close of worship, we leave with the blessing of God, who is with us in Christ Jesus. After the benediction, we sing a hymn that reflects the theme of the service.

### **WORSHIP SPACE**

Your worship space is a reverent place to celebrate the birth of Jesus. These services may be done in the sanctuary, with the project and conversation instructions sent home with the worshippers. Or, the services may also be done in a fellowship hall, gym or similar space, where tables and chairs for the craft activity can be set up ahead of time.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

If your worship space is going to be a fellowship hall, gym or someplace similar, work ahead of time with volunteers to gather craft materials each week, set up paper-covered tables in the worship space and set out supplies for each table. Volunteers should also be available to help participants during the craft activity and to clean up afterward. Volunteers might also help in leading the Family Advent Conversations. Invite people to serve as volunteers for the services.

### **CRAFT ACTIVITIES**

If you are making the crafts during the worship time, it will be helpful to provide take-home bags to be used to carry the craft project home. If the crafts are to be done at home, printed instructions can be distributed after the worship service. Some of the necessary craft supplies can be sent home in clear plastic bags. Families can then supply any other materials needed to assemble the crafts at home. See instructions for each week's craft on the following pages.



# *Family Worship*

WEEK ONE:

BE BORN IN US TODAY BRINGING BLESSING

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# Family Worship

WEEK ONE:

BE BORN IN US TODAY BRINGING BLESSING

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you  
and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2*

Opening Song ..... The Advent of Our King

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be;  
Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's Daughter, rise to meet thy lowly King,  
Nor let thy faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

As Judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again  
And his true members all unite with him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever One, through all eternity.

#### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father,

**C** **who cares for us by keeping his promise** (*cross your arms across your chest*),

**P** and of the Son,

**C** **who redeems us by fulfilling the promise** (*make a cross with your fingers in front of you*),

**P** and of the Holy Spirit,

**C** **who sanctifies us and puts that promise in us. Amen** (*raise your hands up toward the sky*).

**P** Amen.

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*(The first candle is lit)*

**P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**C** **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

#### Confession and Absolution

**P** Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

**C** **Father in heaven, I have sinned in my thoughts** (*point to your head*), **in my words** (*point to your mouth*) **and in my actions** (*touch each hand*). **I have not loved you with my whole heart** (*cross your arms over your heart*), **and I haven't loved others well either. I don't deserve your love, but because of your love for me, you sent Jesus to take away my guilt and shame. Please forgive me, and help me to do better. Amen.**

**P** The Father has indeed kept his promise and forgiven your sin! He has had mercy on you and not treated you as your sins deserve so that you will be a blessing, and his name would be great in you. The guilt has been paid for by Christ's great sacrifice on the cross. He rose from the dead to win the victory over death and the grave forever. You will live forever. Rejoice!



**C Rejoice** (*put your fists in the air and yell, "VICTORY IS OURS! HE HAS MADE OUR NAME GREAT! AMEN"*)!

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray together. Repeat after me: Father in heaven,

**C Father in heaven,**

**P** you promised Abram

**C you promised Abram**

**P** that one of his descendants

**C that one of his descendants**

**P** would be a blessing to the whole human race.

**C would be a blessing to the whole human race.**

**P** You have kept your promise in Jesus.

**C You have kept your promise in Jesus.**

**P** Remind us that you always keep your promises

**C Remind us that you always keep your promises**

**P** even to us.

**C even to us.**

**P** Amen.

**C Amen.**

### Sentences for Children

*(words with motions that capture the theme)*

You and I (*point to another person and then to yourself*)

Have been blessed by God (*point to the sky*)

To be a blessing (*give yourself a hug*)

To others (*give someone else a hug*).

Song ..... 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.

Old Testament Reading ..... Genesis 12:1-8

*The call and blessing of Abram*

Epistle Reading ..... Romans 4:1-8

*Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness*

Gospel Reading ..... Luke 1:39-56

*Mary visits Elizabeth and sings the Magnificat*

Song ..... The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;  
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The God of Abr'ham praise, at whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.  
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,  
And him my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.

The God of Abr'ham praise, whose all-sufficient grace  
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.  
He deigns to call me friend; he calls himself my God.  
And he shall save me to the end through Jesus' blood.

He by himself has sworn; I on his oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.  
I shall behold his face; I shall his pow'r adore  
And sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.

Message

Family Advent Craft: A Family Tree

Family Advent Conversation

Offering

Offering Prayer

**P** Let us pray together. Repeat after me: Dear Jesus,

**C** Dear Jesus,

**P** Thank you for giving me everything I need (*cross your arms in front of you and hold them to your chest*)

**C** Thank you for giving me everything I need (*cross your arms in front of you and hold them to your chest*)

**P** and making me able

**C** and making me able

**P** to give back to you (*put your arms out in front of you*).

**C** to give back to you (*put your arms out in front of you*).

**P** Amen.

**C** Amen.

Song.....Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song ..... Now the Light Has Gone Away

Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking thee to watch and keep and to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away all that has been wrong today;  
Help me ev'ry day to be good and gentle, more like thee.

Let my near and dear ones be always near and dear to thee;  
O bring me and all I love to thy happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give; thou didst die that I might live.  
All my blessings come from thee; oh, how good thou art to me!

Thou, my best and kindest Friend, thou wilt love me to the end.  
Let me love thee more and more, always better than before.



# *Family Worship*

WEEK ONE:

BE BORN IN US TODAY BRINGING BLESSING

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:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/blue-color-tone-close-rain-water-298791248](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/blue-color-tone-close-rain-water-298791248)

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you  
and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2*

- The **Opening Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, “The Advent of Our King,” or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be;  
Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's Daughter, rise to meet thy lowly King,  
Nor let thy faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

As Judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again  
And his true members all unite with him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever One, through all eternity.

- The **Invocation** is spoken responsively and the congregation with motions as indicated:

**P** In the name of the Father

**C** who cares for us by keeping his promise (*cross your arms across your chest*),

**P** and of the Son,

**C** who redeems us by fulfilling the promise (*make a cross with your fingers in front of you*)

**P** and of the Holy Spirit,

**C** who sanctifies us and puts that promise in us. **Amen** (*raise your hands up toward the sky*).

**P** Amen.

- The **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation and includes the lighting of the first blue or purple candle of the Advent wreath:

*(The first blue or purple candle is lit)*

**P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**C** **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation with motions as indicated:

**P** Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

**C** **Father in heaven, I have sinned in my thoughts** (*point to your head*), **in my words** (*point to your mouth*) **and in my actions** (*touch each hand*). **I have not loved you with my whole heart** (*cross your arms over your heart*), **and I haven't loved others well either. I don't deserve your love, but because of your love for me, you sent Jesus to take away my guilt and shame. Please forgive me, and help me to do better. Amen.**

**P** The Father has indeed kept his promise and forgiven your sin! He has had mercy on you and not treated you as your sins deserve so that you will be a blessing, and his name would be great in you. The guilt has been paid for by Christ's great sacrifice on the cross. He rose from the dead to win the victory over death and the grave forever. You will live forever. Rejoice!

**C** **Rejoice** (*Put your fists in the air and yell, "VICTORY IS OURS! HE HAS MADE OUR NAME GREAT! AMEN"!*)

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken as an echo prayer with the pastor or other worship leader speaking a phrase and the congregation repeating that phrase:

**P** Let us pray together. Repeat after me: Father in heaven,

**C** **Father in heaven,**

**P** you promised Abram

**C** **you promised Abram**

**P** that one of his descendants

**C** **that one of his descendants**

**P** would be a blessing to the whole human race.

**C** would be a blessing to the whole human race.

**P** You have kept your promise in Jesus.

**C** You have kept your promise in Jesus.

**P** Remind us that you always keep your promises

**C** Remind us that you always keep your promises

**P** even to us.

**C** even to us.

**P** Amen.

**C** Amen.

- **Sentences for Children** are words spoken by adults and children with motions that capture the service's theme:

You and I (*point to another person and then to yourself*)  
Have been blessed by God (*point to the sky*)  
To be a blessing (*give yourself a hug*)  
To others (*give someone else a hug*).

- A **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gottes Sohn Ist Kommen 66 66 66, "Once He Came in Blessing," or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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.



- The **Old Testament Reading**, Genesis 12:1-8, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Romans 4:1-8, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 1:39-56, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now

on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

- A **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune Yigdal 6684 D, “The God of Abraham Praise,” or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The God of Abr’ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;  
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav’n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The God of Abr’ham praise, at whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.  
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow’r,  
And him my only portion make, my shield and tow’r.

The God of Abr’ham praise, whose all-sufficient grace  
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.  
He deigns to call me friend; he calls himself my God.  
And he shall save me to the end through Jesus’ blood.

He by himself has sworn; I on his oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav’n ascend.  
I shall behold his face; I shall his pow’r adore  
And sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.

- The **Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*(You may have a Powerpoint slide or picture of your own family tree projected on a wall or on a TV, and then have another one that just has Jesus as the trunk and us as the branches.)*

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2

- ☐ That word *bless* is a peculiar word. It is a word I use quite often as a pastor, especially as I pray for people. “Lord, we ask that you bless this person.” “Holy Spirit, bless this person with faith.” “Father in heaven, bless that person with healing.” We also often talk about people being

blessed with this or that. Tom Brady is blessed with a healthy body and a long career in the NFL. I am blessed with two wonderful kids and a beautiful wife inside and out.

There are so many different ways that we use that word, but what does the word actually mean? In general, it means to speak and act favorably toward someone. If you were the one being blessed, someone would act or speak favorably toward you. If you were to bless someone, you could do so by speaking kindly to them, or doing something nice or good to them or for them out of love.

In our theme passage for today, it is God who initially does the blessing. He blesses Abram by giving him everything that he would ever have, all his flocks and herds, all his food and clothing and shelter, and all his wealth.

Abram was already quite wealthy even before he left Haran. He had lots of animals, land and even servants. God took very good care of him. He blessed him in many different ways, but God says in this passage that he would bless Abram even more.

From our knowledge of Bible history, we find out that God did indeed do so. Not only did God give Abram the promised land in his old age, but he gave him a son as well even though both he and Sarai were well beyond the age of bearing children. Again, God did this all for Abram. Abram didn't earn it. He just believed God, and that belief was what was credited to him as righteousness.

Then God makes Abram's name great so that he would be a blessing to the people and nations around him. Abram was already known among everyone as a man who was highly favored by God, but they would soon find out, as Abram and Sarai miraculously have a son in their old age, that Abram wasn't just blessed for himself but that he was blessed to be a blessing.

There is a difference between blessing someone and being a blessing for someone. It wasn't in Abram's actions that he was a blessing, but it was simply in his existence that he was a blessing because his existence meant that Isaac would exist, and Isaac's existence meant that Jacob would exist, and Jacob's existence meant that his son, Judah, would exist, and so on and so forth all the way down to a man named, you guessed it, Jesus!

It would take 41 generations and thousands of years, but through Abram's existence all the nations of the earth would be blessed. That's a lot of blessing if you ask me. That means that through Abram even you are blessed. You are blessed in that you have received all of the blessings that God promised to Abram, namely, life and salvation. It means that you are the "all nations of the earth" that are blessed through the gift that was brought through Abram's seed, namely, Jesus!

And your name, the name given to you when you were born again in baptism by water and the Spirit, that name known as Christian, shall be great as well so that you may be a blessing.

Christ lives in you not just so that you can feel good about yourself but so that you can, by your existence in this world as a Christian, be a blessing to others. It isn't even about what you do as much as it is about who you are. You are simply a part of Abram's family tree, not by blood, but by faith because Abraham himself was not justified by his own blood but by faith in the righteous blood sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

*(Point to the image of your family tree, if you are utilizing that)* Someday you will be just a small branch or twig on your family tree. You will seldom be remembered, but it is your faith, as long as it was lived out on this earth, that will continue to live in those who come after you, those, who were in one way or another, touched by the faith that you exhibited in your existence here on earth.

It may be in how you cared for your family. It may be your dedication to worship. It may be in how you were always available to help those in need. There are thousands of ways in which your faith can be exhibited, but the most important is that you existed to love and be loved, in the same manner as Christ Jesus.

I think back on the family tree of Abram, who would later become Abraham. I'm not too impressed. If you were to read the genealogy as it is found Matthew, you would see names that aren't all too impressive, that were forgotten. Certainly you would find names like David and Solomon, but you must also remember that David was a murderer and adulterer, and Solomon had way too many wives, as more than one is too many, and because of the false beliefs of those wives, he was led astray to worship other gods.

Not a one of those people was perfect. Not one person in those 41 generations was without sin. Neither are you. Neither am I. Therefore our legacy can never be one of living the perfect life or being the perfect example, but must only be a legacy of faith in the sure promises of God that were kept in Jesus. Those promises were kept perfectly as Jesus is perfect *(Point to the image of Jesus' family tree with us as branches, if you are utilizing that)*.

As you begin this season of Advent, do so with reverent fear. Do so knowing that even though you may not get everything done. The decorations may never be quite right. The shopping list may not get completely finished. There is no such thing as a perfect Christmas season, but there is a perfect Christ, and in him, all the promises that God made to Abram have been kept. Through him, the whole world, for all time, has been blessed. You have been blessed forever. You have been blessed to be a blessing. So go and exist today as that child of God that he made you to be. Just exist and rest in the certainty that the promise made to Abram has been kept for you! Amen.

- The **Family Advent Craft: A Family Tree** instruction sheets (see pp. 37-38 for reproducible handouts) and materials are handed out for families to do now or on their own during the week:

*Materials needed: brown and green construction paper,  
scissors, glue or tape, markers, pens or pencils*

Directions:

1. Cut the brown construction paper to form the shape of a cross.
2. Cut the green construction paper to form rounded shapes of the top of a tree.
3. Glue or tape the top of the cross shape to the green rounded shape to form a tree.
4. With pen, pencil or marker, write the name “Jesus” in the center of the cross.
5. With pen, pencil or marker, write some of the names of Jesus’ ancestors in the green part of the tree (see Matthew 1).
6. With pen, pencil or marker, write some names of people in your family (living or dead) on the brown cross below Jesus’ name.

- The **Family Advent Conversation** (see p. 39 for reproducible handout) can be handed out for use at the craft tables or at home, or displayed on a screen and discussed among the families while they work on the craft or after the craft is complete:

1. If you would have a chance to talk to someone on your family tree that has died, what would you say to them?
2. Is there anyone famous, or infamous, on your family tree?
3. Should Jesus be on your family tree, and where would you put him?

- The **Offering** is gathered.
- The **Offering Prayer** is spoken as an echo prayer with the pastor or other worship leader speaking a phrase with motions, and the congregation repeating that phrase with motions:

Ⓟ Let us pray together. Repeat after me: Dear Jesus,

Ⓒ Dear Jesus,

**P** Thank you for giving me everything I need (*cross your arms in front of you and hold them to your chest*)

**C** **Thank you for giving me everything I need** (*cross your arms in front of you and hold them to your chest*)

**P** and making me able

**C** **and making me able**

**P** to give back to you (*put your arms out in front of you*).

**C** **to give back to you** (*put your arms out in front of you*).

**P** Amen.

**C** **Amen.**

- A **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jefferson 87 87 D, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

- The **Closing Prayer** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** O Holy Child of Bethlehem, you have brought us blessing upon blessing through your birth. We thank you for your birth among us. Let us treasure all the blessings that you bring and rejoice in the special gifts of grace you shower upon us this season. Let us enjoy this time of celebration as we await your coming among us. Amen.

- The **Benediction** is spoken responsively by the pastor:

☐ The Lord God promised to Abram that he would be blessed and be a blessing. He has kept that promise in Jesus. He has kept that promise to you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

- The **Closing Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune Müde Bin Ich 77 77, “Now the Light Has Gone Away,” or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking thee to watch and keep and to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away all that has been wrong today;  
Help me ev’ry day to be good and gentle, more like thee.

Let my near and dear ones be always near and dear to thee;  
O bring me and all I love to thy happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give; thou didst die that I might live.  
All my blessings come from thee; oh, how good thou art to me!

Thou, my best and kindest Friend, thou wilt love me to the end.  
Let me love thee more and more, always better than before.