

# *Christmas Services*



*For family and friends  
Or just for you*

## Christmas Service Instructions

### Christmas Eve

This is a candlelight service you can use by yourself or with family and friends to help you focus on Christ this Christmas. It is not meant to be a reason not to go to your church's service but to be used as well as, or if you don't have a service to go to

### Christmas Day

This is a service that can be done any time Christmas day. You can do it before you open the presents or with your family at dinner time. It can be done with or without candles; the choice is yours

### Supplies needed for Christmas Eve only

- ❖ Your Advent wreath with all but the Christ candle lit
- ❖ A candle for each person probably taper candles but they don't have to be
- ❖ Foil cut into squares about 4 inches across stand the candle in the center, fold the foil up around the candle then fold the corners down part way so the foil will protect people's hands from the drippings wax.
- ❖ I also recommend a fire extinguisher close at hand just in case.

### Supplies needed for both services

- ❖ A copy of the service for each person
- ❖ If you are like me and the good Lord has given you a number of talents none of which include music you can check out this web site they will play for you so you can sing along. Sing along Christmas carols [www.the-north-pole.com](http://www.the-north-pole.com). They have all but the first two songs.

### Suggestions for both services

If you are doing this by yourself of course you get to do all the parts but if you are doing it with family and/or friends you can divide it up in advance maybe one person as the "Narrator" (bold print) and the others dividing up the scriptures. Of course everyone gets to sing. The lines that are in brackets are instructions they are not to be read.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Redeemer foretold

It's Christmas Eve and the bustle of shopping is over. The presents are wrapped, The Advent wreath is lit everything is ready. The wait is almost over. We have been preparing for the coming of the Messiah for the last month, but at the time of Christ's birth the people of Israel had been waiting hundreds of years almost since the beginning of the world, for the King of Kings who would bring peace, freedom and Life, The one who would break the curse put on all people because of their fall from grace when they chose to do what they wanted instead of listening to God. Instead of doing what God said was best.

*Genesis 3*

The Fall of Man

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

*The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "*

*"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

*He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

*And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"*

*The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."*

*Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"*

*The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

*So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,  
"Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!  
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.*

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

*To the woman he said,  
"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;  
with pain you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

*To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'*

*"Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.*

*It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

*By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are and to dust you will return."*

*Adam named his wife Eve,  
because she would become the mother of all the living.*

*The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

**Right in the story of the fall of man, as He talked to Satan, God promised a redeemer, His own son born of a woman would come and break the curse:**

*Genesis 3:15*

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

**The people were still waiting.**

### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Composer unknown

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell thy people save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
And drive away the shaves of night  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might  
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height  
In ancient times did'st give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

-Rev. Issac Watts

**The years went by and still they waited. They told each other the prophecies to remind them and to not give up hope and still they waited. The Prophecies said that He would come from the line of King David:**

*Isaiah 9:7*

*Of the increase of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.*

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

(Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: Rowland H. Pritchard; harm. from The English Hymnal

Tune: HYFRYDOL, Meter: 87.87 D )

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.

They were told where this all powerful King would be born,  
in a little town called Bethlehem:

*Micah 5:2*

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

### **Little Town (of Bethlehem)**

(Rector Phillips Brooks (1835-1903))

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in the 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 wondering love  
Oh morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth.  
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

Oh 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 Emanuel.

They had even been told when He would be born:

*Daniel 9:25*

*"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.*

### **It Came Upon A Midnight Clear**

(Edmund Hamilton Sears in 1849).

It came upon a midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousands years of wrong;  
and man, at war with man, hears not  
the love song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years,  
comes round the age of gold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

**God said that the Babe would be born of a virgin:**

*Isaiah 7:14*

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child  
and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

## **Silent Night**

(Lyric by Joseph Mohr. Music by Franz Xavier Gruber)

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,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, 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.

**(at this point light the Christ candle in the center of the Advent wreath)**

The wait is over the son of God has come we can be free of the curse just by asking. We are free to walk with God again no walls between us no more trying to make it alone. We are no longer in darkness Jesus has brought the light

**(As we sing this last song turn out all the lights in the room light the candle of the person next to you and they in turn pass it on until all the candles are lit)**

### **O Holy Night**

O Holy Night

The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees,  
O hear the angels' voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night divine,  
O night, O night divine,

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our Friend!  
He knows our need; to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother  
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy Name!  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

**We have been given the Light of Jesus and seen the impact that light  
can have to over come the darkness.  
Now lets go spread it around the world.**

**Let's Pray**

**Dear God**

**Thank you so much for sending your son to save us from our sins and  
from the darkness covering this world. Thank you that we are now free  
to live the life you created us for. Give us the courage to tell others  
about you so they to can experience freedom  
and the true meaning of Christmas**

**Amen**

**Christmas Day Service**  
**The Greatest Gift**

**Praise God His son has come; the greatest gift of all!**

Luke 2:1-7

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.*

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**Joy To The World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the earth, the Saviour 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 blessing 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, of His love

Luke 2:8-14

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."*

### **Hark The Herald Angels Sing**

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 heaven adored  
Christ, the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the God head see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark the Herald Angels sing  
Glory to the new born king

Hail the Heaven born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Son of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen 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 new born king

### **Luke 2:15**

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

### **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

Sing choirs of Angels sing exultation  
O sing all ye citizens of Heaven above  
Glory to God All glory in the Highest

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 all glory giv'n  
Word of the father no O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

*Luke 2:16*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby,  
who was lying in the manger.*

### **Away In A Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
The stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and take us to heaven, to live with you there.

*Luke 2:17-18*

*When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

## Go tell it to the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed the Saviour's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born

Luke 2: 19-20

*But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

**Praise God for the Greatest Gift of all Jesus Christ Emanuel  
Prince of Peace**