



Sunday School Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22, 2024

“We See His Light”

PRESERVICE INSTRUMENTALS
Children/Staff**Sunday School****PROCESSIONAL HYMN**
Children”**“O Come, Little****vs. 1: Congregation****vs. 2-3: Children**

1. Oh, come little children, oh, come, one and all,
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.
God’s Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.
2. He’s born in a stable for you and for me,
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.
3. See, Mary and Joseph with love beaming eyes
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies.
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.

Please stand, if you are able

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Pastor: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

People: **And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.**

Pastor: See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the people;

People: **But the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.**

Pastor: Nations will come to your light.

People: **And kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

All: **For the Lord will be your everlasting light.**

Pastor: On this night of our Savior's birth we welcome you and invite you to worship the Savior of the world with us. In His love, we rejoice together. In His salvation, we find joy together. In the light of His redeeming grace, we see the true happiness of being saved.

Please be seated

Part 1: People Are Lost in Darkness

Narrators: James Hanke, Lillian Finn

Narrator 1: Light and darkness. These simple concepts can be understood by the youngest children. As Christians, we know that our world is lost in the darkness of sin. We see from the beginning in the Garden of Eden, that sin is the reason for that darkness. But God showed us a way out of the darkness. Tonight, we will explore God's plan to send our Light. We will witness God's light that showed God's people the way of salvation. We will hear and worship our Lord and we will see His Light, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Recitation: N1, N2, and Kindergarten

First promised in the Garden
Right after Adam's fall
Jesus our Light and Savior
Who came to save us all!

3rd-5th: Genesis 3:15 “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.”

Narrator 2: Many prophets told God’s people about the Light. The people knew God was sending a Messiah to save them. Sin was and is everywhere. It causes us to hate and hurt each other. Sin makes us all stumble in the darkness. No one saw more clearly than Isaiah the full redeeming love of Jesus Christ. This prophet pictured the sufferings that Christ would endure for us to save us from the very real consequences of our sins. Isaiah and John were two people who wrote about God the Father’s plan for sending Light into the dark world. They wrote about the love of God the Son and we rejoice that God the Holy Spirit has led us to know about the Light of the world. Let’s hear some of their words tonight.

7th & 8th: Isaiah 59:9 & 10 “We look for light but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind, we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes.”

3rd -5th: John 3:19 & 20 “Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.”

1st-2nd: Isaiah 53:4 “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him and afflicted.”

7th & 8th: Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

N1, N2 & Kindergarten: Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

Congregation & All Children: John 8:12 “I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Song: “Father I Adore You”

All Children

V1: N1, N2, & Kindergarten
Father, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You

V2: 1st & 2nd Grade
Jesus, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You

V3: 3rd-8th Grade
Spirit, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You

Part 2: The Light Comes Into the Darkness

Narrator: Maxine Schneider

Narrator 3: The Light of heaven had been promised many times before he actually came to earth. The prophecies showed us a glimmer of that light to God’s ancient people. Then, in the fullness of time, according to the plan of salvation, the Light of the world came to Bethlehem. A bright light in the sky came to some poor, humble shepherds who were watching their sheep under the darkness of night. God split the sky and sent a wonderful message. It was the angels who sang and delivered this message. The darkness disappeared when the angels sang their glorious song in that beautiful light.

All children: Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

Song: “Angels We Have Heard on High

All Children

(younger classes join on Glorias.)

7th & 8th: Luke 2:15 “When the angel went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’”

3rd-5th: Luke 2:16 & 17 “So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child.”

1st-2nd: Luke 2:18 “And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them.”

N1, N2, & Kindergarten: Luke 2:19 “But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”

Congregation: Luke 2:20 “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

Hymn 361: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Congregation



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Part 3: God Sends the Christmas Lights

Narrator: Isabella Keebler

Narrator 4: You might wonder if you are invited to participate in God's plan of salvation. After all, you are not from the little town of Bethlehem. You are not from that time. We don't have angels singing to us to deliver God's message. But let me assure you that you are part of God's design. Let's take a look at how God sent the message of the Light which he revealed to those poor, Jewish shepherds and see how he spread the light to all nations. Let's examine the Light being shared with some rich Gentiles, we call them Wise Men. Let's witness the miraculous star that God put in the sky and see how God wants everyone, including you, to be saved.

N1, N2 & Kindergarten:

Come and see the baby small

Who has come to save us all.
Worship here this Christmas night
Baby Jesus is the Light.

7th & 8th: Matthew 2:1 & 2 “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ‘Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’”

3rd-5th: Matthew 2:3 & 4 “When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the People’s chief priests and experts in the Law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born.”

1st-2nd: Matthew 2:5,9 & 10 “In Bethlehem of Judea...because out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ They went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood over the place where the child was.”

Congregation: Matthew 2:11 “After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Congregational Hymn: # 372 v. 1-2: “As with Gladness Men of Old”



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Part 4: We, Too, Can Become Lights

Narrator: Jackson Erickson

Narrator 5: The excitement of seeing the holy light of the Savior sent from heaven was evident from that very first night of his birth. We see the excitement in the actions of the shepherds who left their flocks to seek out the baby born in a stable. We see the joy of the Wise Men when they found the child in Bethlehem and are finally able to worship him and give him their gifts. We also see it when our little three-year old child in Sunday School walks around singing “Jesus Loves Me” or “This Little Light of Mine”. Believers in Jesus not only enjoy the brilliant light of Jesus, they also become lights. By giving us faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit makes us lights. We shine in this world of darkness so that we can point to and witness to the true light of our Savior.

N1, N2 & Kindergarten: Isaiah 42:6 “I am the Lord...I will appoint you...to be a light for the nations.”

1st-2nd: John 12:46 “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”

3rd-5th: Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden.”

7th & 8th: Matthew 5:15 “People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Congregation & All Children: Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine in people’s presence so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Song: “This Little Gospel Light of Mine”

All Children

v.1 This little gospel light of mine

v.2 Don’t you try to whew it out

v.3 All Around the whole wide world

v.4 It will Point to Jesus Christ

Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Recessional Hymn: #353

Congregation



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Officiant

Organist and Sunday School Music Director

Pastor Pappenfuss

Marcia Marion Ackling

Sunday School Staff Melissa Daugherty, Cheryl Graham, Donna Jedele, Marcia Marion Ackling, Tracey Williamson, Beth Music, Jeff Neuburger, Paul Marion, Diane Amerman, Monica Pappenfuss, Malory Marion, Greta Schneider

Instrumentalists: Camryn Finn, Zed Pappenfuss, Charlotte Hanke, Zeke Pappenfuss, Amelia Hanke, Lillian Finn, Greta Schneider, Maxine Schneider, Malory Marion

Accompanists

Marcia Marion Ackling, Sarah Hanke

Deacons

Dave Stevenson and Ron Roehm

Altar Guild

Judy Lindemann and Sharon Boswell

Videographer

Jake Vershum

