



A Use-At-Home Service

FROM WESTMINSTER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

Instructions:

- Just follow along and choose the options that work best in your context.
- Get your Bible. You may want to bookmark the right passages ahead of time.
- Lyrics to carols are printed further down this document.
- Get candles ahead of time. (If you're with young people, use battery-operated tea lights or find a way to otherwise be safe.)

1



Opening Scripture

GATHER TOGETHER AND READ
ISAIAH 9, VERSES 2 AND 6-7,
A PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS
HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE HIS BIRTH.

2



Praise God with Song

CHOOSE AN OPTION

OH COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL
OR
AWAY IN A MANGER

3



Prayer of Thankfulness

1. BRAINSTORM ALL THE GOOD THINGS (VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE) GOD HAS GIVEN TO YOU.
2. TALK ABOUT WHY JESUS' BIRTH IS SUCH GOOD NEWS.
3. PRAY TOGETHER THANKING GOD FOR THESE THINGS. ONE PERSON CAN PRAY, OR PEOPLE CAN TAKE TURNS.

4

The Christmas Story

READ LUKE 2:1-21 AND CHOOSE
AN OPTION



WITH ADULTS AND/OR OLDER YOUTH
-DISCUSS (A) ANYTHING THAT IS
UNCLEAR, (B) DETAILS INTENDED TO GIVE
US JOY, (C) HOW CHRIST'S BIRTH
CONTINUES TO BE GOOD NEWS FOR US
PERSONALLY AND FOR OUR WORLD
-AND/OR: YOU CAN ACCESS A SHORT
CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE ON OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL BY PASTOR RUTTAN

WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN:
-EXPLAIN UNCLEAR DETAILS
-YOU COULD ALSO (A) ACT OUT THE
STORY WITH YOUR OWN NATIVITY
SCENE, (B) TALK ABOUT HOW YOU
MIGHT HAVE REACTED IF YOU WERE
A SHEPHERD, OR (C) BRAINSTORM
WHO YOU THINK ANGELS MIGHT
APPEAR TO TODAY WITH A
MESSAGE OF HOPE

5



Singing to Candlelight

1. READ JOHN 8:12
2. LIGHT YOUR CANDLES
3. CHOOSE SINGING OPTIONS



HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

THE FIRST NOEL | HURON CAROL | WHAT CHILD IS THIS | SILENT NIGHT
AWAY IN A MANGER | GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING | IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

6



Praying for God's help

1. TALK ABOUT ANYONE WHO MIGHT NEED GOD'S HELP. TALK ABOUT IMPORTANT NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR WORLD.
2. PRAY TOGETHER FOR THESE THINGS. ONE PERSON CAN PRAY, OR PEOPLE CAN TAKE TURNS.

7



Final Song *→ believe →* JOY TO THE WORLD!

Lyrics to the various carol options:

Oh come, all ye faithful

1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of Light, born unto Mary, the virgin blest,
very God, begotten, not created:

Refrain

3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Refrain

4. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God in the highest!"

Refrain

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

Words: Latin, John Francis Wade (1711-1786); translation, F. Oakeley (1802-1880), alt Music: ADESTE FIDELES, anonymous;
arrangement and descant, Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd. 1947. *Words: public domain*

Away in a manger

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 fit us for heaven to live with you
there.

Words: v.1, 2, Little Children's Book for School and Families c.1885; v.3, Gabriel's Vineyard Songs 1892; alt Music: CRADLE SONG,
William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harmony, Eric H. Thiman (1900-1975). *Words: public domain*

The first noel

1. The first noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to search for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

5. Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

6. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our souls hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English traditional, 17th century Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional carol, Sandy's Christmas Carols 1833; fauxbourdon, Healey Willan (1880-1968). Words: public domain

Huron Carol ('Twas in the moon of wintertime)

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round,
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

3. The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

4. O children of the forest free, the kin of Manitou,

the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Words: Huron, Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649); translation, J. Edgar Middleton (1872-1960), alt Music: JESOUS AHATONHIA, anonymous; arrangement, Frederick Jackisch (1922-). Words: translation, copyright © The Frederick Harris Music Co. Ltd.

What child is this

1. 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.

2. 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 borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) Music: GREENSLEEVES, English traditional. Words: public domain

Silent night

1. 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.

2. Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,
Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour is born!"

3. 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.

Words: German, Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); translation, John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber (1787-1863). Words: public domain

Go, tell it on the mountain

Chorus:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Chorus

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth!

Chorus

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Chorus.

Words: African-American traditional; adaptation, John W. Work (1901-1967) Music: GO, TELL IT, African-American traditional; arrangement, John W. Work (1901-1967), alt. Words: adaptation, copyright © John W. Work, 1940

Hark! the herald angels sing

1. 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.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate deity!
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt; French, Edmond L. Budry (1854-1932) Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); arrangement, William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915)

It came upon the midnight clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"To all the earth good-will and peace, from heaven's all-gracious King";
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. 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.

3. But with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong,
but we, through din of war, hear not the love-song which they bring.
Oh hush the noise, oh still the strife and hear the angels sing.

4. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

5. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth God's promised splendours fling,
and all the world take up the song, which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876), alt Music: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900). Words: public domain.

Joy to the world

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive its King;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
and heaven (and heave) and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.
repeat (repeat) the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as (far as) the curse if found.

4. 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 (wonders) of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt Music: ANTIOCH, Lowell Mason (1792-1872); harmony, Henry Rosevear (1903-1982). Words: public domain.

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