

Opening

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

P: On those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P: Heavenly Father, Jesus was with you in the beginning, but we did not recognize him. He came into our world, but we did not welcome him. He came to his own, but we did not receive him. We are sorry for the sins of the world, and more sorry for our own sins.

C: Forgive us for not making room in our hearts for Jesus. Pardon our rejections of him and of those filled with his light. Grant that we might spread his light and grace to give life to our world.

Musical Selection - "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

*Tom Seidl, Keri Friesenegger & Rachel Feld
Text: Edmund Sears Tune: CAROL Arranged by Paul Sjolund
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P: As the angels told the shepherds that first Christmas Eve: "Do not be afraid. We bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Rejoice! Through Christ we have peace with God.

C: Amen.



Carol - "Peace Came to Earth"



Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
And who could be the same for hav - ing held
You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And God em - bod - ied
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The wound - ed hands and
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In bread and wine you
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
side, all doubts dis - pelled Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
vis - it us a - gain Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
- brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

1. The Savior's Person

True God and True Man – Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Response

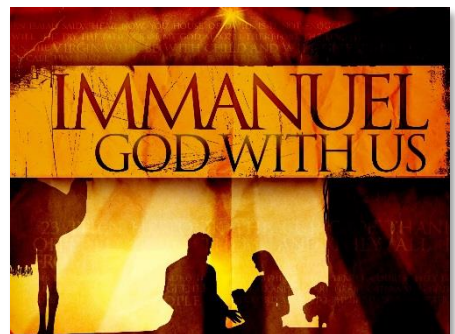
P: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

C: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son;

P: And will call him Immanuel;

C: Which means, "God with us."

Carol – "Mary Did You Know"



2. The Savior's Work

Counselor and King – Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of 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.

Response

P: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

C: But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: Therefore my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Musical Selection – “Breath of Heaven”

Christine Painter and Michelle Estby

Words & Music by Chris Eaton & Amy Grant Arranged by Lloyd Larson ©2009 Age to Age Music

3. The Savior's Attitude

Humble in life and obedient in death – Philippians 2:6-8



⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

Response

P: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become right.

C: When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hymn – “Christ the Life of All the Living” CW 114 vv 1 & 7 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain



Christ, the Life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the Death of
Then, for all that wrought my par - don, For thy sor - rows



death, our foe, Who, thy - self for me once giv - ing To the dark - est
deep and sore, For thine ang - uish in the gar - den, I will thank thee



depths of woe - Through thy suf - frings, death and mer - it,
ev - er - more, Thank thee for thy groan - ing, sigh - ing,



I e - ter - nal life in - her - it. Thou - sand, thou - sand, thanks shall be,
For thy bleed - ing and thy dy - ing, For that last tri - um - phant cry,



Dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
And shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

4. The Savior's Blessings

Peace With God – Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴So 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. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and 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.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Carol – “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

CW 52 Text and Tune:

Collected and transcribed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Reproduced by permission of Stainer & Bell Ltd., London England. Setting: public domain.



On Christ-mas night all Christ-ians sing To hear the news
When sin de-parts be-fore your grace, Then life and health
From out of dark-ness we have light Which made the an-



the an-gels bring; On Christ-mas night all Christ-ians sing
come in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore your grace,
-gels sing this night. From out of dark-ness we have light



To hear the news the an-gels bring, News of great joy,
Then life and health come in its place. An-gels and saints
Which made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God



news of great mirth, News of our mer-ci-ful King's birth.
with joy may sing All for to see the new-born King.
and peace to men Now and for-ev-er-more, A-men."

Purpose in Living – Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



Carol – “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

CW 57 Text: From American Negro Songs and Spirituals.

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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.

Continued on next page



While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,
 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a-bove the earth
 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. *Refrain*
 Rang out the an-gel chor-us That hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal-va-tion That bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain



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.

Hope in Dying – Luke 23:39-43

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Response

P: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

C: **Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Offering and Candle Distribution

Candle Lighting: Parents, please use your discretion on whether your child should have his or her own candle. We suggest at least 8 years old. Do not tip a lighted candle! Tip only an unlit candle to receive the flame.

Theme Carol – “Silent Night”

CW 60 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Music by Pepper Choplin Based on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM ©2014 The Lorenz Corporation

During our 5p Service the choir will introduce it with the song “Night of the Father’s Love”.

Please join in as directed.



Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright, Round you vir - gin moth-er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far;
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia;
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Extinguishing of Candles: Please cup the flame with your hand as you blow the flame out. Please return the candle as you are ushered out.

Closing

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: May the Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Christ the Savior is born!

C: Christ the Savior is born!

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