

“Rock Solid”
School Christmas Service
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PRESERVICE MUSIC

Eighth Grade Piano Students Selected Carols for Christmas

**School Choir “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”
Dorothy and Tom Christopherson**

The virgin Mary had a baby boy, And they say that His name was Jesus.
He come from the glory; He come from the glorious Kingdom.

The angels sang when the Baby was born, And proclaim Him the Savior Jesus.

The Wisemen saw where the Baby was born, And they say that His name was Jesus.

Sixth Grade Band “Silent Night” - Bruce Pearson

Seventh and Eighth Grade Band “African Noël” - Bruce Pearson

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Let All Together Praise Our God” *LSB* 389

**All: Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.**

**He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.**

**Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.**

**He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.**

**He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love! No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.**

**He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.**

**Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.**

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER

P: The LORD is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer.

C: **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, You gave Your people Israel life-giving water from a rock in the wilderness.

C: **We give You thanks for the life-giving water of Holy Baptism You give to us.**

P: Lord, You gave Your people an altar of uncut stones to sacrifice animals to atone for sins.

C: **We give You thanks for the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, on the mountain of Calvary to atone for our sins.**

P: Lord, You commanded that Your people build a temple for Your presence to abide among the people.

C: **We give You thanks for sending Your Son, the Cornerstone, for our lives, our church and our school.**

P: Lord, You call upon us to believe in Your promises of forgiveness of sins and everlasting life that are as solid as a rock.

C: **We give You thanks that You have called us to faith lest we, in unbelief, stumbled over You, our Rock.**

P: The LORD is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer.

C: **Amen.**

MESSAGE

Spotlight on rock—church is dark

Voice 1: I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2 *NIV*)

Voice 2: God reached out from eternity and created all things perfectly. Everything had its place and purpose. The crown of His creation was man who was made in His image.

Voice 3: With His perfect world came one command: Do not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In spite of this simple warning, Adam and Eve ate and thereby sinned.

Voice 4: As a result all mankind was condemned to death, both at the end of life on earth and eternally in hell—apart from God. But God’s love for all people is so great that He announced His plan of salvation immediately.

Voice 5: God was so moved by love to save us that one might even say that His plan was written in stone.

Kindergarten:	God made the mighty mountains.	Born a little baby
	He made the shining sea.	Jesus came to save.
	He made the trees and flowers.	Our Rock and Our Redeemer
	And He made you and me.	All His love He gave.

Archaeologist and students enter.

Archie: Remember, today’s goal in science class is to see God’s fingerprints in His creation. Everywhere you look you will find evidences of His power and might.

Child 1: Are you serious? What about this huge rock right here?

Child 2: This old rock? We pass by it every day.

Archie: Yes, this old rock! You couldn’t make one like it. Maybe if you take a closer look you’ll see more than you expected.

Child 3: There’s a big crack right here. I think I can pull a piece out.

Child 4: It looks like someone wrote on the back of it.

Child 1: That’s impossible. You can’t write on the inside of a rock.

Archie: Nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:37 *NIV*)

Narrator 1: Stones were often used in the Bible to complete God’s purposes. God gave His law to His people on stones after He delivered them from Egypt.

Grade 2: Deuteronomy 4:13 says, “He declared to you His covenant, the ten commandments, which He commanded you to follow, and then wrote them on two stone tablets.” (*NIV*)

Narrator 2: God’s laws continued to be simple and yet impossible for us to follow on our own.

HYMN “These Are the Holy Ten Commands” *LSB* 581

**All: These are the holy Ten Commands God gave to us by Moses’ hands
When high on Sinai’s mount he stood, Receiving them for our good.
Have mercy, Lord!**

**You have this Law to see therein That you have not been free from sin
But also that you clearly see How pure toward God life should be.
Have mercy, Lord!**

**Our works cannot salvation gain; They merit only endless pain.
Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we flee, Who pleads for us endlessly.
Have mercy, Lord!**

Child 2: This piece is loose, too.

Child 3: That one looks like it has waves on the back of it. What could God be telling us with waves?

Archie: In the Old Testament, God gave His children water in the desert from a stone.

Grade 3: In Exodus 17:6, God said to Moses: "I will stand there before you by the rock. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." (NIV)

Grade 4: Moses obeyed God's command and the Israelites had water to drink. Recalling this Old Testament miracle, St. Paul writes in I Corinthians 10:3-4: "They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." (NIV)

Narrator 3: Even though He had not yet been born, Christ was already with His people, providing for their needs. God's plan for salvation was at work even though the act of salvation was yet to come.

HYMN "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" LSB 761

Grades 1-4: Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

**All: Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

Grades 5-8: Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

**All: While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.**

Child 4: I'm really starting to have fun now. Let's get back to digging.

Archie: Sometimes using tools will help loosen these rocks.

Child 1: You're right, that did the trick. Here's one with a table on the back.

Archie: Um, ... good job, but I don't think that's a table. It's an altar.

Grade 1: Genesis 8:18 and 20 state, "So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD." (NIV)

Narrator 4: Noah's altar is the first altar mentioned in the Bible. An altar is a symbol of sacrifice. In Old Testament times God's people sacrificed to God to atone for their sins. Even those sacrifices were provided by God, as He did in the place of Isaac when He tested Abraham's faith.

Narrator 5: These offerings foreshadowed the act of God sending His One and Only Son and sacrificing Him on the cross to atone for our sins.

HYMN "Not All the Blood of Beasts" LSB 431

Grades 5-8: Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.

Child 2: You guys are all using your hands. I'll try using my feet.

Archie: Be careful now, we don't want to destroy creation ... which includes you.

Child 2: But it worked! See what I found?

Archie: Ah, what an interesting find. This has a capstone on it.

Child 3: What's that?

Grade 1: Psalm 118:22, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone." (NIV)

Narrator 6: A capstone is the centerstone at the top of an arch. It bears all the weight for both sides and keeps the arch from collapsing. Jesus referred to Himself as THE capstone.

Grade 4: Matthew 21:42, "Jesus said to them, "Have you never read the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.' " (NIV)

Narrator 7: The capstone was the most important stone in an archway. In the same way, Christ is the central figure in our salvation.

Child 4: This is lots of fun. I never knew what all could be found in God's creation.

Archie: I'm glad you're having fun. That is one of the purposes of today's lesson.

Child 4: What are you looking at?

Archie: I think I have a major find. Look at this!

Child 1: Ooh, ... that's great!! ... what is it?

Archie: I believe we have found a manger.

Child 2: Doesn't look like the ones I normally see at Christmas.

Archie: That may be true, but many mangers were made of stone.

SCHOOL CHOIR “Before the Paling of the Stars” - John Boda

Before the paling of the stars, Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cockcrow Jesus Christ was born.

Jesus on His mother's breast, In the stable cold,
Spotless Lamb of God was He, Shepherd of the fold.

Let us kneel with Mary maid, With Joseph, bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass, To hail the King of glory.

Tableau - Kindergarten

Grade 5: “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.

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 Savior 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 favor rests.’ ”

(Luke 2:1-14 NIV)

Narrator 8: Finally, the long awaited Savior had arrived. This tiny Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes would be able to accomplish what no one else could.

GRADES K-2 “Away in a Manger” LSB 365

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 Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Narrator 9: He would fulfill God’s law and promises in order to save all mankind. Christ would go from helpless infant to our Rock of Ages.

Child 3: Ow!! This one fell out and it’s in the way.

Archie: Did you look at it?

Child 4: Yes, and all it is *is* a rock.

Archie: What do you think it represents?

Grade 3: Romans 9:33, “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” (NIV)

Narrator 10: Even though the Savior had arrived to fulfill everything God had promised, He was a stumbling block to those who refused to believe in Him. Jesus was not the earthly leader that they were looking for, and His ways confused and confounded them.

Narrator 11: Yet Jesus is the True Messiah and the only path to salvation.

Grade 7: Acts 4:12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (NIV)

Child 1: Here’s another rock.

Child 2: This looks like the empty tomb we see at Easter.

Archie: That’s one of the most familiar rocks in the New Testament.

Grade 2: John 20:1, “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.” (NIV)

Narrator 12: As the stone in front of the tomb had been rolled away, so too the wall of sin that had separated us from God was removed.

Narrator 13: Jesus took our place and our punishment so that we might have eternal life.

Grade 8: 2 Corinthians 5:15, “[Christ] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (NIV)

Narrator 14: The sting of death is gone. Death holds no fear for those who have faith because the victory has been won through Christ and His resurrection.

HYMN “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” LSB 469

Grades 5-8: Love’s redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun’s eclipse is o’er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Grades 1-4: Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened paradise.

**All: Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O grave?**

Child 3: We’ve pulled a bunch of rocks out of this big one.

Archie: It looks like there is one more that can be safely removed.

Child 4: I’ve got it. It looks like the corner of a building.

Archie: Cornerstones have long been significant for buildings and Christians.

Grade 6: Ephesians 2:19-20, “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.” (NIV)

HYMN “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” LSB 912

Grades 1-4: Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav’n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

Grades 5-8: Here may we gain from heav’n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv’n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

**All: Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.**

Narrator 15: Just as a cornerstone holds up a building like this church, Jesus is the foundation for our Christian faith. Jesus is both the Source and Stability for our faith.

Narrator 16: Having the firm foundation of Christ is important. He supports not only our faith but our daily lives as well.

Grade 6: 1 Corinthians 3:11, “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (NIV)

Narrator 17: God’s promises to us are “rock solid” because they are firmly set in the saving work of Jesus. This strong foundation is not to be buried or kept to oneself. Many people are hurting and wandering aimlessly through life without the certain base of life in Jesus Christ, both now and eternally. It is our joy at Christmas—and at all times—to share our firm foundation with others. Then, together with King David, they and we will declare: “The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!”

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

HYMN SING Congregation and Students

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” *LSB* 388

**All: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and evr’ywhere;
 Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

“God Loves Me Dearly” *LSB* 392

**Grades 1-4: God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
 God loves me dearly, Loves even me.
 Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly,
 God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

**I was in slav’ry, Sin, death, and darkness;
God’s love was working To make me free. *Refrain***

**He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus, And set me free. *Refrain***

**All: Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
 Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. *Refrain***

**Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You All my life long. *Refrain***

“Silent Night, Holy Night” *LSB* 363

Grades 1-4: 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.

**All: Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**All: 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.**

PRAYERS

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Cornerstone, born in Bethlehem and crucified on Mount Calvary for us all, set our feet upon a rock and make our steps secure that we may trust in You alone for forgiveness of all our sins and finally receive the promised life everlasting, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promise, we are bold to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN “Joy to the World” *LSB* 387

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all 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 sin and sorrow 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 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, wonders of His love.**

POSTLUDE “Let All Together Praise Our God” - Paul Manz