

Name _____

“A CHRISTMAS PRIMER”

School Christmas Service

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✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

Pre-service Music

School Band “Fanfare for a Christmas Celebration” – Robert W. Smith

Eighth Grade Piano Students Selected Carols for Christmas

School Choir “Rejoice Greatly” – Healey Willan

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, thy King cometh unto thee.

Zechariah 9:9

Processional Hymn

“O Come, Little Children” *MFH 48*

Congregation and Students

**O come, little children, O 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.**

**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.**

**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 alleluias above.**

**Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.**

Stand

Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You choose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; You choose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; You chose what is low and despised in the world even things that are not to bring to nothing things that are. Grant us wisdom and faith to hear Your Word and believe in You, Your wisdom, and Your power revealed in a manger at Bethlehem; through Jesus Christ born for us.

C: **Amen.**

Sit

“Where?”

K-2: Where is Christmas?

3-A: Some would say at Grandma’s.

3-B: Others say at church.

3-C: It is at Tilles Park in the lights.

3-D: It is found in Christmas songs.

3-E: Some think you find it at Disneyworld.

3-F: I know, some people think it is at the mall.

3-G: Some see/hear it in the bell ringers.

3-H: Others look in books.

3-I: It’s in manger scenes.

3-J: Maybe, it’s in our hearts.

K-2: *(Sung; Tune: Do You Know Who Died for Me?)*

Do you know **where** Christmas is? Tell me so. Tell me so.

Do you know **where** Christmas is? Tell me so, right now.

P-1B: *(searching frantically)* I can’t find it! I can’t find it! I can’t find it anywhere!!!

S-1: What are you looking for _____? We’ll help you look.

P-1B: I can’t find Christmas! It’s got to be around here somewhere. They’ve been talking about it on TV since Halloween, and I’ve seen Christmas stuff in the stores since then too. But **I** can’t find it. My mom says that my presents come with Christmas.

S-2: Oh, _____, you’re so funny. Christmas isn’t a thing. It’s an event that happened over 2000 years ago. The reason you see all that Christmas “stuff” in the stores is because we celebrate that event every year.

P-1B: Are you sure about that. I’m really hoping to find it, so I can have my gifts.

S-1: _____, the first Christmas didn’t happen in your closet, living room, or even at the mall. It really did happen in Bethlehem long ago.

6-A: Micah 5:2 – “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” (ESV)

6-B: Isaiah 40:9 – “Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, Behold your God!” (ESV)

N-1: Christmas was a real event that happened in a real time and a real place. It was the fulfillment of a promise that God made as part of His perfect plan to save us.

N-2: The first Christmas took place in Bethlehem, but you don’t have to go there to find it. Every time we celebrate Christ’s birth, we have a piece of that first Christmas in our hearts.

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” *LSB* 361

(Tune: FOREST GREEN, *LSB* 362)

Congregation and Students

K-4: O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

**All: For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King And peace to all the earth!**

5-8: How silently, how silently The wondrous Gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

Stand

**All: O 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 Immanuel!**

Sit

"Why?"

K-2: Why is there Christmas?

3-K: Many think it is for presents.

3-L: So we can have peace on earth

3-M: So we can be nice to other people

3-N: Stores want to sell more toys

3-O: It is so grandmas can bake cookies

4-A: Christmas is all about decorating

4-B: So we can have parties and food

4-C: Many people think it is all about a break from school or taking a vacation

4-D: People want students to do a pageant

4-E: Maybe it's because we need it

K-2: *(Sung; Tune: Do You Know Who Died for Me?)*

Do you know **why** Christmas is? Tell me so. Tell me so.
Do you know **why** Christmas is? Tell me so, right now.

P-2B: I think it's lights.

P-1G: I think it's presents.

P-2B: It's lights.

P-1G: It's presents.

P-2B: Lights!

P-1G: Presents!

S-3: Why are you arguing?

P-2B: I think we have Christmas so we can see all the pretty lights and decorations.

P-1G: I think it's so we can get presents.

S-4: What? Don't you know why we have Christmas?

P-2B: Yes, so we can have lights!

S-3: No, _____. We have Christmas to celebrate when Jesus was born.

P-1G: What? I don't see Him at Walmart. What is the big deal about Him?

S-4: Jesus *is* a big deal. Without Him, our sins would be an even bigger deal.

N-3: Sin has been a big deal from the very first time it happened. Adam and Eve were living in the Garden of Eden and didn't follow God's command. Satan tempted them and they followed him rather than God.

6-C: Genesis 3:17-19 – “And to Adam [God] said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, “You shall not eat of it,” cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’ ” (ESV)

N-4: This is where our sinful nature began. This sinfulness separates us from God.

6-D: Isaiah 59:2 – “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.” (ESV)

N-5: But God does not want us to be separated from Him. And He knew we could not overcome the barrier of sin ourselves.

N-6: God had a perfect plan in mind. He would send His son, Jesus, to take our place.

6-E: John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (ESV)

N-7: Jesus IS a big deal because without Him, we would be condemned. Jesus rescues us from the unholy trinity of sin, death, and the power of the devil.

N-8: We have Christmas because God keeps His promises. God kept the promise He first made long ago in the Garden of Eden that He would save us from our sins. Christmas is not about us, our decorations, or celebrations. It's about God's love for us.

Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *LSB 357*

Congregation and Students

1-4: O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

5-8: O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**All: O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

“Whom?”

K-2: Whom is Christmas about?

4-F: Christmas is about Santa Claus.

4-G: I've heard people say it is about snowmen.

4-H: Grandma and grandpa are Christmas.

4-I: It's all about Mary, Joseph, and the angels.

4-J: Some say it is about Rudolph and the reindeer.

4-K: It is really all about Lucy, Linus, and Charlie Brown.

4-L: Frosty the Snowman is who Christmas is.

4-M: Maybe it's about Jesus.

K-2: *(Sung; Tune: Do You Know Who Died for Me?)*

Do you know the Christmas tale? Tell me so. Tell me so.

Do you know the Christmas tale? Tell me so, right now.

(Puppets have props)

P-2G: This cat can be the mom, and this troll can be the dad. But since I am the dad, I get to be the angel too!

P-3G: This fairy can be the sparkling angel. And I think I have a spaceship we can ride in.

S-5: What in the world are you two doing?

P-3G: Can't you tell?

P-2G: Some people play school; we play Christmas.

S-6: This doesn't *sound* like Christmas.

P-3G: Sure it does. I'm the cat mom and this sheep is the baby.

P-2G: I have to be the troll “dad”, but I get to be the sparkly angel fairy too!

P-3G: We lost our Barbie car, so we will use the spaceship to go pay our taxes.

- S-6: Isn't my mom your Sunday School teacher? Haven't you been listening? Don't you know there is a true story with real people and real names?
- S-5: The mom was named Mary and the dad was named Joseph. The Bible tells the true story of the first Christmas in the book of Luke.
- N-9: It was time for God's plan to unfold. He chose Mary to be the earthly mother of His Son Jesus. The angel Gabriel came to her and announced that she would give birth to a baby boy that would be God's son.
- 6-F: Luke 1:30-33 – And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (ESV)

Hymn

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” *LSB* 356

Congregation and Students

**All: The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

5-8: “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

1-4: Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

**All: Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!**

N-10: Jesus also had an earthly father, Joseph. An angel came to him and explained that Mary would be having God's son.

6-G: Matthew 1:20-21 – But as [Joseph] considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (ESV)

N-11: Let's hear and see the Christmas tale from Luke, chapter two.

(Kindergarten tableau)

- 5-A: Luke 2:1-7 – “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.
- 5-B: “And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.
- 5-C: “And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” *(ESV)*

Hymn

“Away in a Manger” *LSB 365*

Congregation and Students

1-4: 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.

**All: 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.**

1-4: 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.

- 5-D: Luke 2:8-14 – “And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.
- 5-E: “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’
- 5-F: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’ ” *(ESV)*

Stand

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB 368*

Congregation and Students

Men and boys: Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Women and girls: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Grades 5-8: Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Sit

5-G: Luke 2:15-20 – “When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’”

5-H: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

5-I: But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

5-J: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” *(ESV)*

Song

“When I Think of Christmas”

Kindergarten and Grade One

When I think of Christmas, I think of how God’s only Son came to earth.

When I think of Christmas, I think of how Mary was smiling,
Joseph was thankful, when God’s only Son came to earth.

When I think of Christmas, I think of how a new star was shining bright.
Mary was smiling, Joseph was thankful, when God’s only Son came to earth.

When I think of Christmas, I think of how angels sang “Glory”,
a new star was shining bright.
Mary was smiling, Joseph was thankful, when God’s only Son came to earth.

When I think of Christmas, I think of how shepherds were frightened,
the angels sang “Glory”, a new star was shining bright.
Mary was smiling, Joseph was thankful, when God’s only Son came to earth.

When I think of Christmas, I think of how Wise Men came searching,

shepherds were frightened, the angels sang “Glory”, a new star was shining bright.
Mary was smiling, Joseph was thankful, when God’s only Son came to earth.

When I think of Christmas, I think of how God’s love is the reason
the whole world is different, ’cause Wise Men came searching,
shepherds were frightened, the angels sang “Glory”, a new star was shining bright.
Mary was smiling, Joseph was thankful, when God’s only Son came to earth.

N-11: The story of Jesus and His birth is not a fairy tale. Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds were real people. The angels really came to them and announced God’s plan of salvation for all people. God’s Son was really born as a baby. He is the most important **who** of Christmas.

Hymn

“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.

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!

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.

“How?”

K-2: How do we live Christmas?

3-P: Christmas is sharing peace, joy, and love.

3-Q: It is about gift giving.

3-R: Christmas is being off of school.

3-S: Some say it is food, fun, and parties.

3-T: It is about watching all the Christmas movies, like “It’s a Wonderful Life” or “Elf.”

3-U: Going caroling to shut-ins.

3-V: Trees, decorations, and smells.

3-W: I’m sure I’ve heard people say it is about Black Friday.

3-X: Well, traveling seems to be a big Christmas thing.

3-Y: Maybe Christmas is more.

K-2: *(Sung; Tune: Do You Know Who Died for Me?)*

Do you know **how** Christmas lives? Tell me so. Tell me so.

Do you know **how** Christmas lives? Tell me so, right now.

P-3B: I hate undecorating for Christmas. It’s so depressing.

P-4G: I agree. It just seems like such a let-down.

P-3B: We do all this work for one day, and then it’s gone for a whole year.

P-4G: Yeah, people are all warm and happy on Christmas Day.

P-3B: Don’t you wish we could make it last?

P-4G: OOOHHHH! Wouldn’t that be the BEST?!?

N-12: The world’s view of Christmas is a one day party of gift-giving, food, and a spirit of kindness. Fewer and fewer people know the origin of Christmas.

N-13: Knowing the ‘who, what, where, when, and why’ of Christmas is important. It helps us see God’s great love for us that is more than just the birth of His Son.

6-H: Galatians 4:4-5 – “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” *(ESV)*

N-14: Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, died, and rose from the dead so that we could be saved from our sins. This amazing act of love makes it possible for us to be children of God.

G-I: 1 John 3:1a – “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!” *(ESV)*

N-15: The world is ready to pack up Christmas and put it away the day after we celebrate it. No more gifts, no more kindness, and you’re on your way to your post-holiday diet.

N-16: But we Christians know that the feeling of Christmas isn’t our kindness for others, it is God’s love for us. That feeling doesn’t end at midnight on December 26th. It is a permanent part of our lives through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

N-17: Christmas lives in our hearts all year round. God’s love for us doesn’t end. His love is a gift that keeps on giving. It is a love meant to be shared each and every day. We can pack up the decorations, but we shouldn’t pack up God’s love. As Christians, we get to live Christmas every day.

K-2: How DO we live Christmas?

4-N: Learning about Jesus.

4-O: Helping others for Jesus’ sake.

4-P: Telling other people about God’s great love.

4-Q: Serving other people joyfully.

4-R: Remembering what God has done for us.

4-S: Sharing what God has given to us.

4-T: Asking people to come to church with us.

4-U: Singing God’s praises.

4-V: Honoring other people.

4-W: Thanking God for all He has done.

N-18: Living Christmas is our greatest joy because of the love of our Father. Sharing that love is how we can keep Christmas alive year-round. God made us His children. The world needs to know who our Father is and about His great love. A giving Christ; a loving God: we are blessed to share that message with the world as we live Christmas.

Gathering of the Offerings

Sixth Grade Handchime Class

“Joy to the World”

Arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

School Choir

“Laudamus te” from *Gloria* – Antonio Vivaldi

(Sung in Latin)

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.

(We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You.)

Song

“Behold What Manner of Love”

Kindergarten and Grades 1-2

Behold, what manner of love the Father has given unto us!

Behold, what manner of love the Father has given unto us!

That we should be called the children of God.

That we should be called the children of God.

Stand

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Lord, we thank You that even in the midst of this world and all that distracts us, the light of Your Word about our Savior born in Bethlehem shines brightly. Throughout this season, focus our eyes on Jesus Christ and the salvation He won for us by being born for us, by His death on the cross for us and by His glorious resurrection. Grant, that as Your children, we may live the celebration of the birth of our Savior every day of our lives. In His name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

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

Congregation and Students

**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 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 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

✠ GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST ✠