

Light a Candle On The Tree (The Tree of Light)

A Christmas Service for Children and Adults



THE PRELUDE & WELCOME *(video)*

PREPARING THE ALTAR *Speakers 1a and 1b*

THE INVOCATION

To God our Creator, who makes all things whole,

Give praise to the One who holds all in control.

To God our Redeemer, who came to restore,

Give praise to the One who will reign evermore

To God our Companion, whose counsel abides,

Give praise to the One who within us resides.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

This Little Light of Mine *Sung by the Children*

(As singing begins, the children proceed down the center aisle and take their places at the front of the church.)

THE GREETING *Speaker 2*

THE HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 357 v. 1,2
Sung by Congregation

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

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]**

I. Candle Lights of Prophecy

From the first book of the Bible to the last, we hear about the Light that God promised to send His people—the Messiah, who brings the gift of salvation through His birth as a human being, His perfect life, and His sacrificial death to pay for sin. God's prophets bring a consistent message of hope for God's people through the years.

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 3-10*

THE HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 357 v. 4,6 *Sung by Congregation*

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel!**

**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. [Refrain]**

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 11-18*

THE HYMN Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming LSB 359 v. 1,3
Sung by Congregation

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.**

**This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.**

II. Candle Lights of Proclamation

The Christmas story is so much more than just a story. It is the true account of the birth of a Savior for all people. Jesus was born as a human so He could fulfill the Law on our behalf and die as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The true light that gives life to everyone has come into the world.

THE HYMN Light of the World *Sung by Children*

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 19-36*

THE SONG Go Tell It On The Mountain *Sung by Children*

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 37-48 (Manger comes down)*

THE HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *LSB 380 v. 1,3
Sung by Congregation*

**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!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. [Refrain]**

III. Candles of God's Gifts

Jesus brings forgiveness, life, and salvation to everyone who believes. In Him, we also receive many other gifts, not just at Christmas, but throughout our earthly lives. These gifts bring us true light and help us reflect God's light and love to those around us through our vocations.

Grace

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 49-52*

THE HYMN *Away in a Manger LSB 365*
Stanza 1 Children, Stanzas 2-3 Congregation

*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.**

Love

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 53-55*

THE SONG God Loves Me Dearly *LSB 392*

*Stanza 1 and First Refrain Children, Stanzas 2-5 Congregation
(Children join in on Refrain)*

*God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.*

Refrain:

**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]**

**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]**

Peace

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 56-58*

THE HYMN Silent Night *LSB 363 (Candle lights are distributed)
Children, Stanza 1, Stanzas 2 - 3 Congregation*

*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.**

Joy

THE RECITATIONS *Speakers 59-61*

THE CLOSING HYMN Joy to the World *LSB 387 v. 1,4 Sung by Congregation*

**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 nature sing.**

**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 of His love.**

THE BENEDICTION *Doxology by Children*

THE POSTLUDE

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