



# CHRISTMAS EVE

---

THE GREAT GIFT OF GOD

December 24, 2021

# WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

CHRISTMAS EVE 2021

*(Families with small children may want to sit near the front so they can better see the artwork that will happen during the service.)*

PRELUDE

Carol selections

## WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SOSA FAMILY

Leader: Advent is a time to proclaim.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

Leader: We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

Leader: We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

Leader: We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

Leader: We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

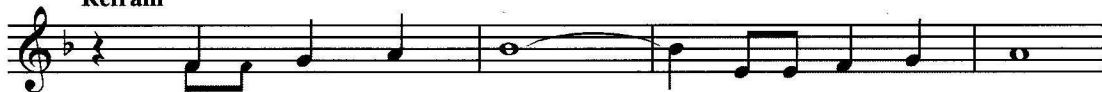
**All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

Leader: Tonight we light all of the candles. The first candle reminds us that Advent is a time to wait upon the Lord with faithful endurance. The second candle reminds us that Advent is a time to watch for God's presence with hopeful expectation. The third candle reminds us that Advent is a time to prepare for the Lord in heart, soul, and mind. The fourth candle reminds us that the One we wait for, watch for, and prepare for is Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, meaning God is with us. Tonight we light the last candle, the Christ candle. This candle reminds us that we are to proclaim the message of Christmas by celebrating what Christ has done, and by sharing it with others. As the light from each candle fills this room, so may the Light of Christ fill our world!

We Wait in Hope (Congregation is seated and sings last verse.)

Joel Raney

**Congregation:  
Refrain**



(1st Sunday) We wait in  
(2nd Sunday) We watch in  
(3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in  
(4th Sunday) We praise with  
(Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with

hope \_\_\_\_\_ for the morn - ing Light,



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate \_\_\_\_\_ the night. \_\_\_\_\_



We wait with  
We watch with  
We pre - pare with  
We praise with  
We pro - claim with

joy \_\_\_\_\_ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we wait in  
we watch in  
we pre - pare in  
we praise with  
we pro - claim with

hope for peace on earth.

© 2008 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049  
All rights reserved.

Permission is given by the publisher to copy this page.

OPENING PRAYER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.  
Let us go with the shepherds;

**People: Let us go to find the Savior!**

Leader: Let us go with the wise ones;

**People: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!**

Leader: Let us go with the poor and humble;

**People: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.**

Leader: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him;

**People: Christ the Lord!**

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,  
 2. God of God, Light of Light;  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him  
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God,  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels;  
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;  
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let  
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

READING: *Luke 2:1-7*

READER: MALENA ROSE

Leader: The Word of the Lord  
People: **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL: *What Child Is This? (verse 1) (Please remain seated.)*

HYMN 213

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.

SOLO: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

17th century French Carol  
FAITH OLIPHANT MURPHY, STEPHEN MURPHY

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

CHILDREN'S STORY: *Song of the Stars*

LAUREN MATHUES

CAROL: *Away in a Manger* (Please remain seated)

HYMN 205

Capo 3: † Unison F(D) Dm(Bm) Gm(Em)

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

C(A) F(D) G(E) G<sup>7</sup>(E<sup>7</sup>) C(A)

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes;  
 close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;

F(D) Am(F#m) D(B) Gm(Em)

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care.

F C(A) F(D) Gm(Em) C<sup>7</sup>(A<sup>7</sup>) F(D) †

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

## HAIL, THE WORD MADE FLESH

POEM: *Descent*

by Luci Shaw  
READER: JOHN SCHUURMAN

*Down* he came from *up*,  
and *in* from *out*,  
and *here* from *there*.  
A long leap,  
an incandescent fall  
from magnificent  
to naked, frail, small,  
through space,  
between stars,  
into our chill night air,  
shrunk, in infant grace,  
to our damp, cramped  
earthy place  
among all  
the shivering sheep.

And now, after all,  
there he lies,  
fast asleep.

CAROL: *What Child Is This? (verse 2) (Please remain seated.)*

HYMN 213

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
God Christian, 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.



As the shepherd on the hillside stands,  
His soul unclean as his unwashed hands,  
I hear the angels' sweet refrains,  
But the glorias fade and my sin remains.  
So I go to see the newborn King  
With nothing but my guilt and sins to bring.  
Then here is Christ in the manger hay,  
And sin's accounting is borne away.  
Here a burdened conscience is finally blessed,  
As a baby sleeps that I might rest.  
A baby sleeps that I might rest.

Like the magus from the heathen east,  
His knowledge grown as his doubts increased,  
I know the heavenly light that guides  
To a foreign faith and a God that hides.  
Yet I go this Jewish King to see  
With the weight of all my tired uncertainty.  
Then here is Christ on a silent night,  
And the darkness yields to an infant light.  
Here's a simpler proof of a truth unguessed,  
As a baby sleeps that I might rest.  
A baby sleeps that I might rest.

Come, O sinner, and come, o sage  
To a baby born into every age.  
For the angels sing and the stars guide still  
For the eyes that see and the heart that will.  
Come with sins unhealed and with hope unsure;  
See your labor end as your faith and works endure.  
For here the Christ unto us is born  
For a thinker tired and a sinner torn,  
For a humbled mind and for sins confessed  
A baby sleeps that we might rest.  
A baby sleeps that we might rest.

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(Read together.)*

**People: O Lord, even as you entered this world with your Son for our salvation,  
Now enter our hearts and minds with your Spirit  
That we may hear and understand your word of joy.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, Amen.**

MEDITATION: *The Power of Humility*

GEORGE GARRISON

## RAISE THE SONG ON HIGH

CAROL: *What Child Is This? (verse 3) (Please remain seated.)*

HYMN 213

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.

## RESPONSE

Leader: A boy has been born for us.

**All: A Child has been given to us.**

Leader: And his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace.  
Once we were no people;

**All: Now we are God's people.**

Leader: Once we walked in darkness;

**All: Now we have seen a great light.**

## CANDLELIGHTING

*(Continued)*

\* CAROL: *Silent Night* (verses 1,2 & 3)

HYMN 210

*(Please stand.)*

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.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
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.

*Raise your candles and sing.*

Refrain: *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Musicians: Mary Hopper, Alethea Funck, Kent Richter, Jack Durbin, Stephen and Faith Murphy, Howard Whitaker, the Buursma family

Artwork: David LaPlaca

Candlelighters: Balzer family

Thank you for your presence here tonight!  
We pray God's blessing on you this Christmas and in the New Year.