

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 2024

(ADAPTED BY MARIE L. JOHNSON 12-2024)

## HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

**Pastor:** **End of hymn sing announcement -** The children will remain in the nativity scene at the end of the service so that you will have the opportunity to take pictures. Please refrain from taking pictures during this special worship service.

+ PREPARATION +

CONGREGATION HYMN

"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (LSB 375)

[Children will process to the front of the church during the processional hymn and sit in the choir loft.]

INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

*Isaiah 9:6, adapted*

**P** To us . . .

**C** a child is born!

**P** To us . . .

**C** a son is given!

**P** His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

**C** Mighty God,

**P** Everlasting Father,

**C** Prince of Peace.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

*Pastor will offer a brief meditation or use the children's message for this service. All children in the congregation are invited to come forward for the lesson.*

OFFERING – (Hymn to fill the time passing the plate) LSB 379

*Group 1 readers assemble during the offering.*

## THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN

+ IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US +

*{Dim Lights}*

*Project the Immanuel image or display the Immanuel poster or banner.*

**Naomi:** Creator. Heavenly Father. Good Shepherd. Lamb of God. Holy Spirit. Jesus. These are just a few of the many names of God that we read in the Bible. Each name describes our one true God and what He does for us. At Christmastime, we hear special names of God from the prophet Isaiah: Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. But what do these names mean, and why does Isaiah use them to describe the promised Savior? Today we will find out!

**Isabella:** In Old Testament times, God sent the prophet Isaiah to unbelieving King Ahaz and God's people living in Judah. Ahaz and the people did not trust that God could save them from their enemies. They had turned away from God, just as people have done since the time of Adam and Eve and the first sin in the garden. But God would not give up on His people! He had promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior to bring all people back to Him. Through the many years that followed, God continued to remind His people about the Savior He would send.

**Marie:** God sent Isaiah to King Ahaz and the Israelites, telling them to repent of their sins and turn back to the Lord. Only the one true God could deliver them from their enemies. And one day, God would deliver all people from our greatest enemies: sin, death, and the power of the devil. God gave them a sign to show He would do this. Isaiah 7:14 says, "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." The name *Immanuel* means "God with us." God Himself would come to earth and be born a human baby in order to save us and to bring us back to Him. What wonderful, happy news!

RECITATION 1

All Children where they stand. (LSB 377:1)

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, News of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

*{Lights on}*

CONGREGATION HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (LSB 338)

*During the congregational hymn, readers return to their seats and children in Group 2 get into place.*

## + WONDERFUL COUNSELOR +

*{Dim Lights}**Project the Wonderful Counselor image or display the Wonderful Counselor poster or banner.*

**Greyson:** Have you ever tried walking in the dark without a flashlight? It's hard to see where you are going! You could easily get hurt or lost. Walking in darkness is how Isaiah describes people who don't trust and believe in God. But God doesn't leave us in the dark! Jesus came to be the light that shines in the darkness. Isaiah 9:2 tells us: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Jesus is the light of the world!

**Sylvia:** The light of the world would come as a baby, born of a virgin. Isaiah tells about the birth of this baby, a new king who would come from David's kingly line and who would rule over an everlasting kingdom. The new king is the promised Messiah, Jesus. Isaiah describes the Messiah using names that show us His power and authority: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

**Wendy:** The second name Isaiah gives Jesus the Messiah is *Wonderful Counselor*. A counselor is someone who gives advice, or counsel. The world often gives bad advice that leads us away from God into darkness. Jesus gives wonderful, lifegiving counsel—the Good News of salvation. We hear this wonderful counsel from Jesus in His words recorded in 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."

## RECITATION 2

All Children where they stand (*LSB 377:2*)

Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
 Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
 When from our sin He set us free,  
 All for to gain our liberty?

*{Lights on}*CONGREGATION HYMN "Savior of the Nations, Come" (*LSB 332:1–3, 7*)*During the congregational hymn, Group 3 readers get into place.*

## + MIGHTY GOD +

*{Dim Lights}**Project the Mighty God image or display the Mighty God poster or banner.*

**Heather:** The third name Isaiah gives to Jesus is *Mighty God*. The child born of a virgin would be God Himself! Jesus our Savior is true God and true man. Before Jesus was born, God sent an angel to proclaim this miraculous news to Joseph. Matthew 1:20–23 tells us, “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.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

The birth of Jesus Christ from Luke chapter 2:

**Korbin:** “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.

\_\_\_\_\_ : 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.

**Ledger:** 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” (Luke 2:1–7).

## RECITATION 3

All Children where they stand (*LSB 377:3*)

When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

*{Lights on}*

## CONGREGATION HYMN

“Joy to the World” (*LSB 387*)*During the congregational hymn, Group 4 readers get into place.*

## + EVERLASTING FATHER +

*{Dim Lights}**Project the Everlasting Father image or display the Everlasting Father poster or banner.*

**Walter:** “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 fear.

**Elena:** And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a 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.’

**Kambree:** 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!’” (Luke 2:8–14).

**Lynna:** “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.’

**Teagan:** 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.

**Evelyn:** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:15–20).

**Megan:** Isaiah gives the baby born in Bethlehem a fourth name: *Everlasting Father*. Jesus is the Son of God, but He has the heart of a father toward His people. Jesus rules over His kingdom as a loving father. He is the *Everlasting Father*—Jesus has no beginning and no end, and His kingdom is eternal. Isaiah 9:7 says, “Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.”

## RECITATION

All Children where they stand (*LSB* 412:4)

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored.

*{Lights on}*

## CONGREGATION HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (*LSB* 357)*During the congregational hymn, all children get into place.*

*{Dim Lights}*

CHILDREN'S Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (*LSB* 380)

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!”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 Late in time behold Him come,  
 Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
 Hail the incarnate Deity!  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

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*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Public domain

RECITATION

All Children where they stand (*LSB* 377:4)

All out of darkness we have light,  
 Which made the angels sing this night:  
 Glory to God and peace to men  
 Now and forever more. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S Hymn

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (LSB 388)

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
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*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873–1925, stanzas, alt. Public domain

*All children return to their seats.*

*{Lights on}*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE READING

**P** To us a child is born,  
**C** to us a son is given.

**P** Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor,  
**C** our Mighty God,  
**P** the Everlasting Father,  
**C** the Prince of Peace. Thanks be to God!

## PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.  
**C** Heavenly Father, thank You for fulfilling Your promise to send Your Son to be our Savior. You have given us the best gift of all: the Child in the manger who came to live, die, and rise again for us! In His name we pray. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless and keep you in the joy of Jesus, our Savior. The blessing of the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.  
**C** Amen.

*All children move to the steps and sing First verse in German and then English. The congregation joins in singing the remaining verses while the children make the nativity scene.*

*{Dim Lights}*

**Recessional Hymn:** “Silent Night, Holy Night” *LSB* 363

*Children stanza 1 in German:*

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das heilige Elternpaar  
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,  
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,  
Bei dem himmlischen Kind.

*Children stanza 1 in English:*

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.



*{Lights on}*

**Congregation:**

*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!*

(Children move to create manger scene)

*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.*

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85. Public domain

**Pastor:** Announcement (about worship and about pictures) – The children will remain in the nativity scene for photos. Thank you for coming.