

This Is My Son

A Christmas Eve Service for Children

(adapted by Marie Johnson 11-24-22)

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.

Processional Hymn: “O Come, Little Children” *My First Hymnal, p. 48*

(Children process in from the back with candles and stand in the front to sing the last 2 verses and then sit in the choir loft)

Congregation:

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.

Children:

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.

Children:

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.

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Responsive Reading

Pastor: What great love the Father has given to us,

Congregation: That we should be called children of God!

Pastor: He sent His Son to save us from death,

Congregation: That we should be called children of God!

Pastor: Jesus was born to take our place,

Congregation: That we should be called children of God!

Pastor: His work on the cross gives us new life;

Congregation: And we are called children of God!

The Christmas Meditation

(all children in the congregation and Sunday school students come to the front to listen to pastor)

Offering (We Give Thee but Thine Own LSB 781 - Verses 1&2)

Congregational Hymn: “In This Precious Baby Boy” Tune: LSB 397

In this precious baby boy,

We are given peace and joy.

By the Spirit, hope is won—

Mary bore the Father’s Son.

Son of God and Son of Man:

He fulfills the holy plan.

God’s own children, we have strayed,

Constantly have disobeyed

In the garden, in the sand,

Through the river, in the Land.

But the Child who takes our place

Bears the cross to earn us grace.

Through this baby in the hay,

God has given us the Way

To inherit life above,

Rescued by His perfect love.

In this Child, we all may be

Children of eternity.

The Message Presented by the Children

The Son in the Manger

(Display the Son in the manger poster or banner.)

Marie: Our heavenly Father created a perfect, sinless world. He created people to love and care for. The first two people, Adam and Eve, were created perfect and sinless too. But they disobeyed God, and sin and death entered the world. Right away, God provided a plan. He would not let His children die eternally. He would send a Savior.

Heather: Thousands of years passed, and God's children continued to disobey God. But God kept loving them, and He did not forget His promise. When the time was right, He sent His Son—His only Son—Jesus in the world. Jesus is the perfect Son who never sinned. He was born, He lived a perfect life, He died the death we should have died, and He rose again so we can have eternal life.

Wendy: God has called each of us to be His child through faith in His perfect Son, Jesus. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are! (1 John 3:1).

Congregational Hymn: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

LSB 384:1, 3

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

(Children move to the steps during the last verse)

Brenni: 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*

Sylvia: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Shaylee: And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

Braxxton: But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Greyson: 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.

Brenni: 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.” *Luke 1:26–33*

Children’s Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392:1, 3

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.

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

(Children move to choir loft)

The Son and the Cross

(Display the cross poster or banner.)

Marie: And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” *Genesis 3:8–13*

Megan: 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. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. *Galatians 4:4–7*

Congregational Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357:1

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!

(Children move to the steps during the hymn)

The Son in Our Hearts

(Display the heart poster or banner.)

Ledger: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Korbin: This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Isabella: 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.

Evelyn: And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

Elena: 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*

Lynna: 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.

Naomi: 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.”

Sylvia: 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*

Greyson: 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.

Walter: And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Kambree: 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*

(Children move to the sit in the choir loft)

Congregation Hymn: “Away in a Manger”

LSB 364

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the 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.

All Children Recitation (from Choir Loft)

The Father’s promises are true;
God sent His Son for me and you.

The angels sang of Jesus’ birth;
The shepherds witnessed God on earth.

He fills my heart with joy and love,
The Son of God, come from above.

Apostles’ Creed

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

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

Congregation: To us a Son is given;

Pastor: And the government shall be upon His shoulder

**Congregation: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Prayer (*Other prayers and intercessions may be added.*)

Pastor: We pray:

All: Father in heaven, thank You for Your great love for us. Forgive us for the many times we disobey and stray from You. Thank You for sending Jesus to pay for our sins so that through faith in Him, we can live as Your children forever. In His name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: Joy to the world, the Son of God, our Savior, has come! May the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: Silent 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.

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!***

(Children move to create manger scene)

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.***

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

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