

“Christmas Is Jesus”

PASTOR: Stop! Stop! What are you people doing in church? Why are you all gathered here?

SPEAKERS:

1. We've come to worship our Savior!
2. Christ the Lord is born!
3. Our Savior is born!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Joy to the World #387

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every 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.

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

**4. 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.**

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

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

PASTOR: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given!

PEOPLE: **Alleluia!**

PASTOR: Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Alleluia!**

PASTOR: The Word became flesh and dwelled among us.

PEOPLE: **And we beheld His glory, full of grace and truth.**

PASTOR: Thanks be to God for His inexpressible Gift!

PEOPLE: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace good will to men. Alleluia!**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE OFFERING

PASTOR: So far everything is very impressive. You seemed happy to sing the song “Joy to the Word,” but is that all Christmas is? Singing songs? Tell me what Christmas really is. Let me hear you tell the real meaning of Christmas.

SPEAKER: To get the real meaning of Christmas we must go back more than 6,000 years. The Bible tells us that “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” All that God created was good. However, the devil was soon working to destroy what the Almighty God had created. The first people on earth, Adam and Eve, were tempted by Satan and fell into sin.

SPEAKER: The world was hopelessly lost. But God did not allow the world to be lost very long. He promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior, who would be born of a virgin and would save us from our sins.

HYMN: Oh, Come, Little Children (*children only*)

1. Oh, come, little children, oh 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.

Author: Christoph von Schmid
Translator: Herman H. Brueckner (1916)
Tune: IHR KINDERLEIN KOMMET
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SPEAKER: Thousands of babies are born every day. What's so special about this baby?

SPEAKER: This baby was born for a very special purpose. That purpose was to save the world from being eternally lost. Listen to the story of His birth.

SCENE ONE: *Mary and the Angel (Bible Narration: Luke 1:26-35)*

SPEAKER: 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.

SPEAKER: And he came to her, and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was troubled at his saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

SPEAKER: And the angel said to her, "Don't 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."

SPEAKER: 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.

SPEAKER: And Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no husband?” And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High #368

**1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains.
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

(second verse children’s group)

**2. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

SCENE TWO: *Mary and Joseph at the Manger (Bible Narration: Luke 2:1-7)*

SPEAKER: In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

SPEAKER: And Joseph, also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child.

SPEAKER: And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. 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.

RECITATIONS: *Kindergarten*

We sing a song of glory

Our Lord has come this night

We tell the holy story

Of Christ, our heart's delight.

HYMN: Away in a Manger #364 (*children only*)

1. Away in the manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Additional recitations for nursery, kindergarten, and primary children.

SPEAKER: Listen all to what I say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: This is all I want to say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: Nothing better I can say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: I'm so happy I can say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: With the others I will say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: Don't forget what I will say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: It's the best that I can say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: Can you guess what I will say?

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: I'll repeat it, friends, and say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: Loud and clearly let's all say:

ALL: Jesus Christ is Born Today!

SPEAKER: Wait a minute. There's something about this I don't understand. If this baby Jesus is the Savior of the world and the Son of the Most High God, why was He born in such a place? Little Bethlehem, and in a stable?

SPEAKER: Maybe that was to show us that wealth and power mean nothing to God. Jesus could have been born in a palace, and His mother could have been a queen. But God did not want this. Do you know that the first people who heard the message of Jesus' birth were poor lowly shepherds?

SCENE THREE: *Shepherds in the Fields (Bible Narration: Luke 2: 8-14)*

SPEAKER: And in that region there were shepherds out in a 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.

SPEAKER: And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

SPEAKER: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger. 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 men with whom He is pleased!”

HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing #380

**1. Hark the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King:
Peace on earth and mercy mind,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King.”**

**2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Off-spring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark, the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."**

**3. Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He leaves His throne on high,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"**

SCENE FOUR: *Shepherds at the Manger (Bible Narration: Luke 2:15-16)*

SPEAKER: 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.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful #379

(verse one just children)

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;**
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
Glory to God in the highest!
Oh, come, let us adore Him; Oh come, let us adore Him;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

SPEAKER: Jesus didn't come only for the people of Bethlehem, but for everyone everywhere and for all generations.

SCENE FIVE: *The Wise Men (Bible Narration: Matthew 2:1-12)*

SPEAKER: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him."

SPEAKER: When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him and gathering all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked of them where the Christ was to be born.

SPEAKER: They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

HYMN: As with Gladness Men of Old #397

1. As with gladness men of old

**Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light;
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee!**

2. As with joyful steps they sped,

**Savior, to Thy lowly bed.
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat!**

3. As they offered gifts most rare

**At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!**

SPEAKER: Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;

SPEAKER: And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him."

SPEAKER: When they had heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

SPEAKER: And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

SPEAKER: And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

SPEAKER: The Wise Men trav'ling from afar, were guided by the shining star. Their costly gifts of love to bring, unto the newborn Savior King.

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem #361

(children sing verses one and two)

1. 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 fear of all the years, are met in thee tonight.
2. 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.
3. **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.
4. **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!

PASTOR: I wish I could see Him too! Thank you, children, for telling me this beautiful story. Now I know why you are all here today. You have come together to worship Jesus like the shepherds and Wise Men.

HYMN: Silent Night! Holy Night! #363

1. 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.

2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'nly host sing, Alleluia,

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent Night! Holy Night! Son of God, loves pure light

Radiant beams from Thy Holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

THE LORDS PRAYER

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

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