



Family Worship for Christmas Day

Minister: The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light

**All: On those living in the land of
the shadow of death a light has shined**

Minister: In the name of Christ, the light of
the world, we welcome you. Grace, mercy
and peace be always with you.

All: And also with you

Opening Prayer

**Lord Jesus, before whom the Magi laid their gifts, and whom
humble shepherds worshipped, accept our praises as we celebrate
your birth at Bethlehem, and be born in our hearts today. Amen.**

The Last Candle - The Birth of Christ (White Candle) Jesus is born on Christmas Day

Leader: Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is Christmas Day the day on which we
celebrate the gift to us of the birth of Jesus and
recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light
again the Candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle We speak of hope
because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of
Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his
name.

Third Candle We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us
and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts
and minds with the presence the God

Last Candle Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ which we celebrate
this Christmas Day.

Luke 2

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." *(Light the white Christ Candle now.)*

God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray

All: Lord Jesus, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
Was born upon this day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

In Bethlehem in Jewry
This blessèd Babe was born,
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessèd morn;
The which his mother Mary
Nothing did take in scorn.

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.

The shepherds at these tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed Babe to find.

But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this Infant lay,
They found him in a manger
Where oxen fed on hay;
His mother Mary, kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace.
The holy tide of Christmas
All others doth efface.



Confession

Minister: Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

All: **O Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.
We have lived by our own strength and not by the
power of your resurrection.
We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as though faithless and unbelieving.
We have lived for this world alone
and doubted our home in heaven.
We turn to your mercy as those who were once in
darkness but have now received your light in Jesus
Christ, the light of the world.**

God's forgiveness

Hymn

It was on a starry night when the hills were bright,
earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still;
then in a cattle shed, in a manger bed,
a boy was born, King of all the world.

*And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.
And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world*

Soon the shepherds came that way,
where the baby lay,
and were kneeling, kneeling by his side,
And their hearts believed again,
For the peace of men;
For a boy was born, King of all the world.

Offering

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Hymns

***Christmas bells! Christmas bells! Christ is born they say.
He came down to earth for us, In Mary's arms he lay.***

Angels made it known, shepherds came to see,
the King of kings and Lord of lords, in a stable born for me.

In the inn they found no room, in a manger he was laid,
where the ox and ass, dumb animals, in a tribute lowed and brayed.

Wise men came from far, precious gifts they brought,
to the One who gave up all for us and made himself as nought.

He came and still he's here, still with us today.
So let us put our trust in him, the Truth the Life the Way.

***Come and join the celebration, its a very special day:
come and share our jubilation, there's a new king born today!***

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them.

Come and.....

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so...

God is with us, round the world the message bring,
He is with us, 'welcome', all the bells on earth are pealing.

Collect Prayer & Bible Readings

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem, draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Common Worship Shorter Collect

Isaiah 52:7-10 , Hebrews 1:1-4 & John 1:1-14

Hymn

See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore-
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.

Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

The Christmas Day Sermon

Hymn

The holly and the ivy
Are dancing in a ring,
Round the berry-bright red candles,
And the white and shining King.

O, one is for the prophets
And for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness,
All alight for Christ the King.

And two for John the Baptist.
He calls on us to sing:
'O prepare the way for Jesus Christ.
He is coming, Christ the King.'

And three for Mother Mary.
'I cannot see the way,
But you promise me a baby.
I believe you. I obey.'

And four are for God's people,
In every age and day.
We are watching for his coming.
We believe and we obey.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither, bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo, star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child, bring our hearts' oblations;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God, in the highest!'

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Final Prayer

God our Father, whose word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Christ the Lord.

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.