



# Hearts @ Home Christmas Eve

A Worship Service for Your Household

December 24, 2020

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## WORSHIP

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*(Prepare an advent wreath or 5 candles that you can light. You can also print a paper advent wreath, use battery operated candles, or build one out of blocks or playdoh if you have small children)*

### + CALL TO WORSHIP LITANY & CANDLE LIGHTING +

This is a season of hope.  
We hope for a Savior who can save us, a Healer who can heal us, and a Counsellor who hears all our sorrows.  
In darkness that deepens, we wait for the coming of the light of the world.  
We wait in hope.

*[light the first candle]*

This is a season of peace.  
We long for a Savior who is our Prince of Peace, who blesses our warring world, meeting our brokenness with a peace that passes understanding.  
In darkness that deepens, we wait for the coming of the light of the world.  
We wait in peace.

*[light the second candle]*

This is the season of love.  
We long for love, fresh and newborn, a Messiah who will tell us of God's love that will not let us go.  
In darkness that deepens, we wait for the coming of the light of the world.  
We wait in love.

*[light the third candle]*

This is the season of joy!  
We hope for Immanuel, God with us, who knows us more than we know ourselves, and brings us life abundant and everlasting joy.  
In darkness that deepens, we wait for the coming of the light of the world.  
We wait in joy.

*[light the fourth candle]*

Jesus is born! Alleluia! ,  
We enter the Christmas season, rejoicing in a newborn Savior!  
Jesus is our hope realized,  
our peace fulfilled,  
our joy complete,  
God's love overflowing.  
As we light this candle, we give thanks for Jesus Christ, God's gift to all the world!

*[light a fifth candle - the Christ Candle]*

### + PRAYER OF THE DAY+

God of Surprising Love and Hope, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew. Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your love and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

## **+ SCRIPTURE +**

+ **Luke 2:1-20**

+ **Spark Story Bible** Jesus is Born (Pages 212-217)

## **+ REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION ABOUT THE STORY +**

*(As a household, take turns answering one or more of the following questions)*

- + What prompted Caesar Augustus to order a census?
- + Why is there no room at the inn?
- + How far away from the manger are the shepherds?
- + Do the sheep see and hear the angels?
- + What is the "glory" of the Lord?
- + What is it about the angels that terrifies the shepherds?
- + How do the shepherds find the little family?
- + Where/when did you first hear this story?

## **+ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE +**

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world.

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, they may experience the hope of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts ... that they may feel the comfort of this holy night.

Let us pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns within the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

**+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION +**

There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

If your congregation is engaging in home communion, I invite you to do so now.

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION +**

Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.  
Amen.

**+ SONG +**

"Away in a Manger" (ELW # 277 or 278)

"Silent Night" (ELW #281)

*As a household you can connect with others around the world with singing as we celebrate together!*

*(Lyrics to these songs are on page 4)*

**+ SENDING BLESSING +**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the commitment of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**AMEN**



## Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed; the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay, close by me forever and love me I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## Silent Night

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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

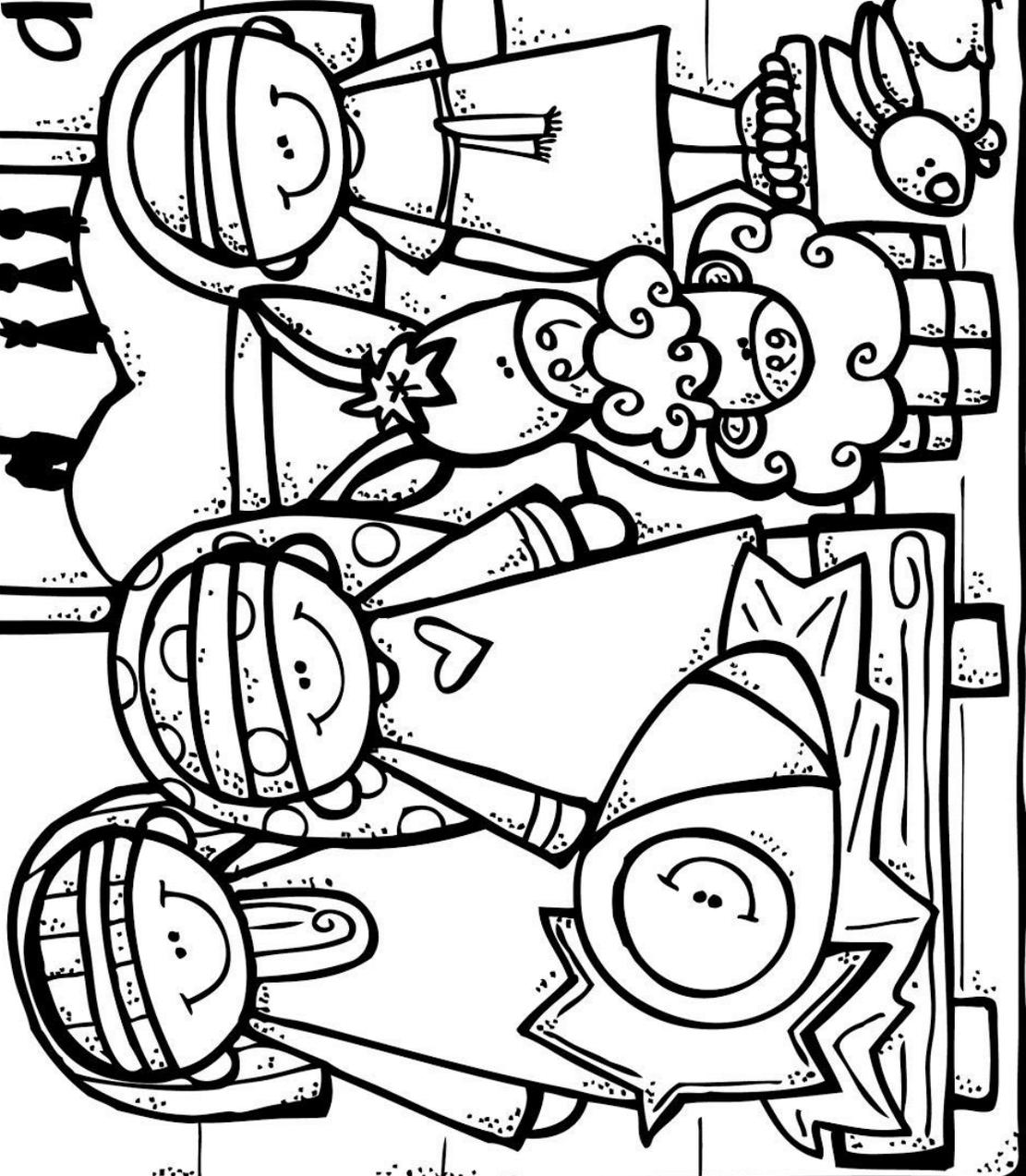
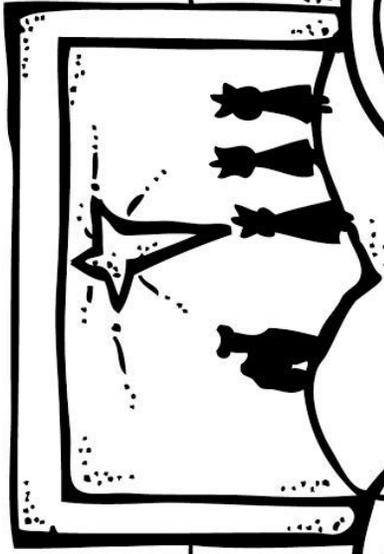
Silent night, holy night! Son of God, loves pure light, radiant beams from your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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for untous  
a child is



born...  
and his  
name shall  
be called  
wonderful!

Isaiah 9:6

