

Christmas

TIME



## A CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

A Resource Created for  
the USA Eastern Territory by



# Christmas

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### Introduction

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS:**

*As the musical prelude concludes, Emcee and Speakers 1-4 move to their microphone. Emcee is positioned in the middle. Speakers 1-2 on Emcees left, Speakers 3-4 on Emcees right.*

#### **AUDIO INSTRUCTIONS:**

*When music stops, **play ticking clock sound effect.***

*(See Online instructions for the download of this sound effect)*

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS:**

*When the congregation becomes silent, commence with the reading of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. This reading is done in a round. After the reader preceding you reads the line that is marked in the script with an asterisk (\*), begin reading.*

**Emcee:** There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to **uproot\***,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,



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**Speaker 1:** There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to **uproot\***,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
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a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

**Speaker 2:** There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to **uproot\***,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
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**Speaker 3:** There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to **uproot\***,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
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a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

**Speaker 4:** There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
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**Emcee:** There is a time for everything. (Pause)

### **AUDIO INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Ticking clock sound effect stops*

**Emcee:** We welcome you to our candlelight service. The final moments of the day are upon us. Nighttime is at hand. Let us pass the next hour of this holy Christmas Eve, together. Perhaps the ticking clock makes you think of all the things you didn't get done for Christmas, in other words, the time you ran out of. Perhaps the ticking clock calls to mind the many things you want to achieve in the days to come, in other words, the time left to fill. Tonight, through the reading of sacred scripture, the singing of holy carols, and the praying of heartfelt prayers, we invite you to experience time in an entirely new way. Christmas "Time": a time to wait, watch, wonder, witness, and worship.

We begin our time together with the singing of the carol, "Once in Royal David's City". Please stand, as we sing.

### **SONG**

"Once in Royal David's City" SB 121 (TB 390)  
(Recommended verses: 1, 2, and 5)

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDLE LIGHTING:**

*During the singing of this carol, an appointed person will light the four advent candles. The Christ Candle will be lit, later.*

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS:**

*During the last verse, Emcee, Speaker 2,3,4, sit down. Speaker 1 is left standing.*



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### Take Time to Wait

#### SLIDE

Christmas "Time": Take Time To Wait  
(See Online Package For This Slide)

#### Speaker 1:

Luke 2:21-32

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord", and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons.")

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."



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### HOMILY

#### Christmas "Time": Take Time to Wait

**Speaker 1:** Do you remember what it was like as a child to wait for Christmas morning to arrive? Do you recall that sense of anticipation that would begin in early November when you opened up that crisp, glossy, Sears Christmas Wishbook catalogue? Do you remember pouring over the toy section, excitedly showing your parents what it was you wanted Santa to leave under the tree on Christmas morn? As children, our Christmas experience depended largely on the adults around us. Perhaps you can call to mind memories of Christmases long ago, of moms and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, working really hard to make your Christmas memorable. Maybe the smell of gingerbread cookies, or the sparkle of a Christmas tree recollects a memory from those foundational years?

Now, as adults, we are the ones working hard to make sure that our children have a memorable Christmas experience. I wonder though if in the busyness of preparation we've forgotten the excitement of waiting. Do we regard Christmas as just one more thing in our busy lives to "get through"? Tonight, let us slow the ticking of the clock, if only for a moment, and take time to wait.

In Luke 2:21-32 we are introduced to character named Simeon. Luke tells us that Simeon was a righteous and devout man. He was a man who spent his life waiting. Was he waiting for the traffic light to turn green? Was he waiting for the oven to pre-heat? Was he waiting for the pre-Christmas sale at the mall? No. Simeon was actually waiting for something substantial. Scripture tells us Simeon was waiting for the consolation; the redemption of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.



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Every day, Simeon went to the Temple in Jerusalem, to wait for the Lord because it was revealed to him that he would not die before seeing the Christ. That was all he knew. Did he know what the Christ would look like? No. Did he know if he'd be a boy or a man? No. Did he know if he'd have green eyes or brown eyes, or red hair or black hair? No. Did he know when he was coming? The time of year, the day, the hour? No. But what he did know surpassed what he didn't know. Simeon did know that he would not die before laying his eyes on the Lord's Messiah. Simeon did know that God was soon going to break the 400 years of silence and would again speak to his people. Simeon did know that the Lord God is faithful in his promises. Simeon did know that the Lord was going to redeem his people, because 'all the promises of God are sure.'

Day after day, month after month, year after year - Simeon waited. He waited until he was near the very end of his own life - the clock was ticking away. And one day, in the Lord's appointed time, Simeon went out into the temple courts, moved by the Spirit, and there in the arms of a Galilean peasant family was the long-awaited Messiah. Raising his hands in a benediction, Simeon joyfully announced, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Simeon's waiting on the Lord was truly an active waiting. He wasn't sitting around, taking it easy. But neither was he running around, trying to do the work of God on his own. How often do we run around, striving to achieve things in our own strength? How often do we pick a course in life without even asking if this is the course that God would have us on? How often do we make a decision without turning to the Lord for guidance? Did Simeon, in his waiting, turn to the writings of the prophet Isaiah who said, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they



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shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”? In that moment, as Simeon held the Christ child in his arms, he discovered that it was truly - worth the wait. Allow God to work out the promises he has for you. Wait on the Lord. This Christmas, take time to wait.

In Simeon's blessing, traditionally called the *Nunc Dimittis*, Jesus was called a light of revelation. This Christmas Eve, let us sing together a modern carol that speaks of Christ's light shining in our hearts, reminding us that for those who walk in darkness, light has come.

### SONG

“Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God among us” SB 133 (TB 859)

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS:**

*During the last verse, Speaker 1 sits down and Speaker 2 stands in place.*

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### Take Time to Watch

#### SLIDE

Christmas "Time": Take Time To Watch  
(See Online Package For This Slide)

#### Speaker 2:

Luke 2:8-9 (KJV)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

#### OPTIONAL SOLO

"Past Three A Clock"

(sung accompanied or acapella)

(See online package for instructions to download)

Past three a clock, and a cold frosty morning:

Past three a clock; Good morrow, masters all!

Born is a Baby, Gentle and may be,

Son of th' eternal Father supernal!

Past three a clock, and a cold frosty morning:

Past three a clock; Good morrow, masters all!



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### HOMILY

#### Christmas "Time": Take Time to Watch

**Speaker 2:** The old English carol, *Past Three A Clock* is based on the words used by soldiers keeping watch over the castle walls. When the new night watch came on at 3 o'clock, they would exchange words similar to the ones heard in the carol.

"Past three a clock, and a cold frosty morning:  
Past three a clock, Good morrow, masters all!"

Keeping watch late into the night is something that the shepherds of Bethlehem knew all about. Living out in the nearby fields, keeping watch over their flocks of sheep - while this evokes a romantic, pastoral image to the modern listener, shepherds were actually a despised group of people. They were known for grazing their sheep on whatever available land they could find, an action which quickly put them at odds with their neighbors. Shepherds were a group removed from the fellowship of the wider community. They were treated with hostility and suspicion, even though the sheep they watched over were highly valued.

Shepherding was not easy work. Being out in all conditions, rain or shine, hot and cold, day and night, was hard living. It was a dangerous job as well. Always on the lookout, shepherds had to protect their sheep from wolves, lions, bears, even human poachers! Yet despite their very rugged demeanor, the shepherds of Israel treated their flocks with tenderness and warmth. Ancient sources tell us that shepherds knew their sheep by name, even by the sound of a lone lamb's cry. The story of the shepherd leaving the 99 in order to find the one lost sheep in Luke 15, describes accurately the special bond between a shepherd and his sheep. We would be utterly scandalized if Luke had written that the shepherds



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were *not* keeping watch over their flocks. Why? Because it would be so contrary to the nature of a shepherd. A shepherd watches over his sheep. It's his ultimate priority. And so it was to this group of shepherds, keeping watch, that God revealed his greatest gift to humankind. Good things happen when we take time to watch.

Keeping watch suggests an alertness of mind, soul, and body. One must be quiet, still, and awake, with a focused mind and keen eyes. Jesus tells his disciples in Luke 21:36 to always be on watch, and in Matthew 26:41: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." As we wait on the Lord this Christmas to reveal his promises, so too must we keep watch. In other words, keeping watch means that we're aware of our actions. We're aware of our speech. We're aware of our thoughts and whether or not they are God-honoring. Keeping watch means an awareness of the positive and negative influences in our lives. Keeping watch means attentiveness to the needs of others. Who is keeping watch over that lone sheep, struggling to find a place in the world? Maybe the Good Shepherd is prompting you to find them, to bring them back into the fold of faith. This Christmas, take time to watch.

You may remain seated as we sing together, "While Shepherds Watched".

### SONG

"While Shepherds Watched" SB 132 (TB 125)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS:

*During the last verse, Speaker 2 sits down and Speaker 3 stands in place.*



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### Take Time to Wonder

#### SLIDE

Christmas "Time": Take Time To Wonder  
(See Online Package For This Slide)

#### Speaker 3:

Matthew 2:1-2; 9-11

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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### HOMILY

#### Christmas "Time": Take Time to Wonder

**Speaker 3:** Christmas time is a time for wonder. Remember hearing for the first time, Clement Moore's, epic poem, "T'was the Night Before Christmas?" It's hard to read that and not feel a sense of wonder. Likewise, we feel a sense of wonder when we plug in our family Christmas tree and see the beautiful lights transform our living room. Or that first Christmas snowfall that transforms our environment into a winter wonderland. We experience wonder when that special family member comes through the door at Christmas time, a family member that maybe we see just once a year, yet that instant connection is still there, undiminished by time and distance. We could pass the evening sharing the many wonders of Christmas. But in truth, all of these wonders pale in comparison to the wonder that is the birth of Jesus Christ.

The first chapter of Matthew is Jesus of Nazareth's, genealogy. The list of names which include, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, and Solomon, make it clear that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, who came to redeem the Jewish people. Yet the second chapter of Matthew also reveals that Gentiles have a place in God's plan of salvation. Enter, the magi.

The magi, wise men, or kings, were pagan gentiles: astrologers from the courts of Persia or Babylonia. They believed in many gods, and that the movement of the stars in the sky, held a special significance for human beings. They were complete strangers to the Promise of Abraham and they did not keep the commands of the Torah, and yet, God, in his prevenient grace, a grace that is constantly drawing people into relationship with him, met the magi where they were. They thought that gods moved through the stars, but as a new star appeared in the western sky, God was revealing that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, didn't just move through the stars, he created the stars and



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holds the very universe in the palm of his hand! The magi followed the moving star from east to west, believing it would take them to the one “born king of the Jews.” They first checked in with King Herod upon arriving in Jerusalem. But it was clear to them that although he held the title; he was not the king they were seeking.

They followed the star until it stopped over the place where the child lay. Matthew tells us that when they saw the star, they were overjoyed. These wise men of renown, who in their homeland were advisors to the king, realized upon entering the house that the child before them was the King of kings. They were filled with joy! They were filled with wonder! Why? Because they now understood that God’s promise of redemption included them! Presenting their ornate and luxurious gifts to a poor peasant family would have seemed ludicrous to anyone else, but to the magi, their gifts were a pale reflection of the true wonder that lay before them. In the arms of Mary, was the Wonder of wonders - the redemption of the world, the hope of salvation for both Jew and Gentile: Jesus, the Savior.

Do you feel the wonder of God including you in his plan of salvation? Do you feel the wonder of Jesus Christ, dying for your sins? Do you feel the wonder of his grace, a grace that reaches out and meets people where they are? This Christmas, take time to wonder.

### **OPTIONAL SOLO**

“I Wonder as I Wander”

(See online package for Lyrics & Music)

Please stand as we sing together a song that expresses our wonder at God’s plan of salvation.



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### SONG

"We three Kings" SB 129 (TB 915)

(Optional Song:)

"The Wonder of It All" SB 65 (TB 874)

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS:**

*During the last verse, Speaker 3 sits down and Speaker 4 stands in place.*

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## Take Time to Witness

### SLIDE

Christmas "Time": Take Time To Witness  
(See Online Package For This Slide)

#### Speaker 4:

Selected readings from Luke 1 and 2.

The angel said to [Zechariah], "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. (Luke 1: 19)

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1: 26 - 28)

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 Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2: 8 - 11)

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### HOMILY

Christmas "Time": Take Time to Witness  
(See Online Package For This Slide)

**Speaker 4:** Angels: far from being the serene, tree-topping decorations, that crown our Christmas trees, the angels in the nativity story are God's warrior messengers. Have you ever turned on the wifi of your cellphone after a period of having it switched off? Once connected to the wifi, the phone comes to life with beeps, flashes, and vibrations as all the missed messages come flooding in. Similarly, after 400 years of silence, God was ready to speak to his people once again. The lines were open, the signal was strong, and the reception was clear. What platform did God use to convey his divine message? His heavenly angels: Gabriel, especially, being the chief agent of communication.

God's revelation that a Savior was coming first came to Elizabeth and Zechariah, who were told by an angel that their son, John, would be the forerunner of the one who was to come. John's entire ministry was to prepare the way. Next an angel came to Mary, an unknown, poor peasant girl, telling her that she would give birth to the Son of God, and then to Joseph, reassuring him of his role as Jesus' earthly father and that God was in this seemingly, incredulous plan.

Like an instant message, God's angels crisscrossed the universe, spanning heaven and earth, proclaiming to frightened shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people! Today in the town of David a Savior has been born. He is Christ, the Lord!" A great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace and goodwill towards men." The angels were the first witnesses of the coming Kingdom of God.



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Christmas affords us the opportunity to witness to others that a Savior has been born. Moving beyond the simple message of 'Keep Christ in Christ-mas', we need to keep Christ in our hearts. We need to keep Christ in the foremost of our thoughts, words, and deeds. We are called to witness that there is good news in the world; that Jesus Christ has come to save men and women from their sins! That is the witness of Christmas: not what's on sale and for how much, or what the year's best present is. Christmas is about witnessing to the good news of salvation!

Our Salvation Army forbearers sang:

*We are witnesses for Jesus  
In the home and in the mart,  
Where the cares of life and fashion  
Crowds the Savior from the heart;*

Doesn't that sound like our world today? But the chorus says:

*Tell the world, O tell the world!  
Make salvation's story heard;  
In the highways, in the byways,  
And in lands beyond the sea,  
Do some witnessing for Jesus  
Wheresoever you may be.*

This Christmas, take time to witness.

We witness, in the words of that great spiritual, by telling others that Jesus Christ is born. Please stand with me as we sing together.



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### SONG

"Go Tell it On the Mountain" SB 106 (TB 631)

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS:**

*During the last chorus, Speakers 1,2,3 enter and stand in place beside Speaker 4. Emcee stands at pulpit or center microphone.*

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### AUDIO INSTRUCTIONS

*Play Ticking Clock Sound Effect for 30sec. Allowing people to settle into silence.*

**Emcee:** And to everything there is a season.

**Speaker 1:** A time to wait.

**Speaker 2:** A time to watch.

**Speaker 3:** A time to wonder.

**Speaker 4:** A time to witness...

**Emcee:** ...and a time to worship.

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### Take Time to Worship

#### SLIDE

Christmas "Time": Take Time To Worship  
(See Online Package For This Slide)

#### HOMILY

Christmas "Time": Take Time to Worship

**Emcee:** The ticking of the clock reminds us that God's plan is always moving forward. The second chapter of Luke 2 tells us that...

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

This is the Christ event: the most seminal event in human history. John defines it as the moment when the "Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Alan Culpepper cautions us that "Neither the familiarity nor the season's festivities should prevent us from realizing the scandal [of the Christmas story] that God came into human history completely helpless, as a newborn, and was



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laid in a feeding trough. Consider in what splendor God might have come, but instead God slipped unobtrusively into a small province far from the seat of earthly power, born to a young couple, unwed or only recently married. No elaborate preparations were made for the birth. God was born on the road. By entering human history in this way, God identified with the powerless, the oppressed, the poor, and the homeless. Among them, God could do the divine new work.”<sup>1</sup>

In response to the divine new work that the Lord is carrying out through the lives of you and me, our only response can be authentic, “hold-nothing-back”, worship. The Christmas story is a story grounded in worship. Consider how the characters gave their worship to the Christ Child.

**Speaker 1:** And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord (Luke 1:46 NRSV).

**Speaker 2:** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God. (Luke 2:28)

**Speaker 3:** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:13-4)

**Speaker 4:** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they have heard and seen. (Luke 2:20 a-b)

**Emcee:** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have

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<sup>1</sup> R. Alan Culpepper, “The Gospel of Luke”. New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary, Abingdon Press, 2004. Pg. 67.

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come to worship him. When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. (Matthew 2:1-2; 10-11a)

How do the faithful respond to the gift of the incarnation? We respond with our worship. We respond with our praise. We respond with our adoration. As we light the Christ Candle, let us join the pilgrimage of the faithful to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of Angels, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Please stand as we sing.

### SONG

“O Come All Ye Faithful” SB 116 (TB 496)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDLE LIGHTING:

*During the singing of “O Come All Ye Faithful”, appointed person(s) will light the Christ Candle.*

**Speaker 1:** Please remain standing. Jesus told his disciples, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.

**Speaker 2:** Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**Speaker 3:** With Christ shining in our hearts, we are sent out as lights in the world, illuminating the path of someone else’s darkness, bringing them to the light of Jesus.



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**Speaker 4:** As we light our candles from the Christ Candle, remember to shine his light as you journey through life, leading others to take time to worship the Savior of Bethlehem.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDLE LIGHTING:**

*Appointed person(s) lights his/her candle from the Christ Candle, passing the flame to every person until all candles are lit. If electric candles are used, still perform the act of "lighting" the candle from the Christ Candle, and passing the light from person to person.*

### **SOLO**

"Here I am to Worship" SB 114 (TB 653)

**Emcee:** Time is passing away, and the hour is at hand. Go forth into the night, bringing with you the Light of the World. Our prayer for you this Christmas Eve is that you will use the time you have, be it short or long, to grow closer with God.

Christmas "time". Take time to...

**Speaker 1:** Wait

**Speaker 2:** (pause) Watch

**Speaker 3:** (pause) Wonder

**Speaker 4:** (pause) Witness

**Emcee:** (pause) Worship. Before we conclude with the singing of *Silent Night*, let me leave you with these words of benediction.



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### **BENEDICTION:**

**Emcee:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in deepest night, are lit up with a brilliant sight.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

The spread of his influence and of his peace will never end.

Therefore, go out into the world with great joy,

and the grace of Bethlehem's matchless Child,

the love of God who never ceases to amaze,

and the fellowship of the Spirit who never wearies,

will be with you this holy night and evermore.

*Bruce Prewer*

### **SONG**

"Silent Night" SB 124 (TB 842)

**Emcee:** Go in peace.