

Christmas Service Kit

A Christmas Day or Christmas Eve order of service — the Luke 2 nativity responsive reading, carol suggestions, and bulletin inserts for visitors.

When to use it: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the Sunday nearest 25 December.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- O Come, All Ye Faithful
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- Silent Night
- Joy to the World

Suggested preaching text

Luke 2:1-20 or John 1:1-14.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11 (KJV)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14 (KJV)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (KJV)

Invocation

Lord Jesus, thou didst not send word — thou camest. Thou wast laid in a manger so that we might be raised to glory. Make this room a Bethlehem this morning, and let every heart here make room for thee. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Father, we confess that we have often made this day about everything but thy Son. Forgive the noise, the excess, and the forgetting. Give us the wonder of the shepherds and the obedience of Mary. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11 (KJV)

Responsive reading

The Nativity — Luke 2

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
Luke 2:1 (KJV)

People: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Leader: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
Luke 2:10 (KJV)

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11 (KJV)

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke 2:14 (KJV)

Offering sentence

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

If you are visiting today

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (KJV)

Christmas is the claim that God did not stay at a distance. The Word — the God who spoke the world into being — was made flesh and lived a human life on a real street in a real town. If that is true, nothing about your life is beneath his notice.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

Read at home tonight

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11 (KJV)

Read Luke 2:1-20 aloud before the meal or before bed. It takes three minutes and it puts the day back on its feet. The angel's first word to frightened people is still the same word: Fear not.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.