

# A Night Like No Other

## A Family Christmas Celebration

### Welcome

*Andy Muich, DCE & Susie Hardwick, Preschool Director*

### Video: “It All Starts Here”

### Opening Song: “O Come Let Us Adore Him”

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

***O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him  
O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him***

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of heav’n above  
Glory to God, glory in the highest  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

***O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him  
O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him  
O sing hallelujah, come let us adore him  
O sing hallelujah, come let us adore him***

Yes, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv’n  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

***O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him  
O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him  
O sing hallelujah, he alone is worthy  
O sing hallelujah, he alone is worthy***

***O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him  
O come all ye faithful, come let us adore him  
O sing hallelujah, he alone is worthy  
O sing hallelujah, he alone is worthy***

### Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning, the Word – Jesus Christ – was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome the light. (*John 1:1-5, Nlrv*)

Leader: On a night like no other, Light looked down and saw darkness.

**Response: "I will go there," said Light.**

Leader: On a night like no other, Peace looked down and saw fighting.

**Response: "I will go there," said Peace.**

Leader: On a night like no other, Love looked down and saw hate.

**Response: "I will go there," said Love.**

Leader: So, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love came down from heaven and made his home among us.

Leader: Let us pray. We thank you, heavenly Father, for bringing us to this day. We're here to celebrate the good news of your grace and love — a love so great that you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior and God! Lead us to a sense of wonder and awe as we recall the joy of that first Christmas, and stir in us the desire to share the good news of Christ's birth with everyone.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

**Response: We welcome Him, our Newborn King! Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!**

# A Promise Like No Other

**The Promised Messiah – Micah 5:2, 4 (ERV); Isaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6-7 (Nlrv)**

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are the smallest town in Judah. Your family is almost too small to count, but the "Ruler of Israel" will come from you. His beginnings are from ancient times, from long, long ago. He will begin to rule Israel in the power of the Lord. Like a shepherd, he will lead his people in the wonderful name of the Lord his God. And they will live in safety because then his greatness will be known all over the world.*

*The LORD himself will give you a miraculous sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us).*

*The people who are now living in darkness will see a great light. They are now living in a very dark land. But a light will shine on them. A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace. The authority of his rule will continue to grow. The peace he brings will never end. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom. He will make the kingdom strong and secure. His rule will be based on what is fair and right. It will last forever. The LORD's great love will make sure that it happens.*

Leader: God's people lived for many years in sinful darkness, hate, and fears. But when God knew the time was right, He kept His promise to bring forth a new light.

**Response: That night was like no other night, when God sent to us His Son. We see His love for all the world – perfect love for everyone.**

# A Birth Like No Other

## The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1, 3-7 (ERV)

*It was about that same time that Caesar Augustus sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list. Everyone traveled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.*

*So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because they were engaged to be married and she was now pregnant. While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a manger – a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest house was full.*

Leader: God answered their prayers in just the right place. He sent his response in a sweet baby's face. His Son, the Prince of Peace, came down to the earth and slept in a manger the night of his birth.

**Response:** That night was like no other night, when God sent to us His Son. We see His love for all the world – perfect love for everyone.

## Song: "Silent Night Holy 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  
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia

Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

# A Joy Like No Other

## The Shepherds and Angels – Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

*There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "Glory to God in the highest heaven! And peace to those he is pleased with on earth!"*

*The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.*

Leader: Good news of great joy came from heaven that night as angels told shepherds, who shook with great fright: "Rejoice! For behold the world's Savior is here! He lies in a manger. Come and see and do not fear!"

**Response: That night was like no other night, when God sent to us His Son. We see His love for all the world – perfect love for everyone.**

# A Gift Like No Other

## **The Wise Men Follow the Star – Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 (NirV)**

*Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."*

*After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

Leader: Then Wise Men came later to worship their King. They followed the star with the gifts they would bring. This baby so little gave Wise Men gifts, too, gifts not just for them—but for me and for you. One day this dear Jesus would die for our sin. He'd rise from the tomb, and give us joy from heaven.

**Response: That night was like no other night, when God sent to us His Son. We see His love for all the world – perfect love for everyone.**

## **Video: "The Wrong Christmas Story"**

## **Message**

**"A Story Like No Other"**

*Andy Muich, DCE*

## **Prayer**

Leader: Let us pray. Loving Father, help us always remember the birth of Your Son and in doing so, keep us ever mindful of Your presence and Your great desire to be near Your people. Close the door of hate. Open the door of love. Let kindness and compassion come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Prepare us, Lord, for the second coming of Your Son. Keep us in Your grace. Guard our hearts and minds from the things that so easily deceive. Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with hearts full of love.

**All: Amen.**

## A Christmas Blessing

May the joy of the angels fill your heart with song. May the eagerness of the shepherds lead you to the Truth. May the light of the Bright Star shine in your life. May the determination of the wise men inspire your journey of faith. May the obedience of Joseph challenge your fears. May the faith of Mary strengthen your trust in God. And may the peace of Jesus, the Christ Child, be with you and those you love this Christmas. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain in you always. Let it be so, Lord. Amen! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Closing Song: "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry 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

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

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

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 and wonders of His love

Joy to the world!  
He is come!  
He is come!

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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### Celebration Leaders

Andy Muich, Director of Christian Education  
Susie Hardwick, Preschool Director

### Special Guest Readers

Abigail D.  
Abigail M.  
Arden M.  
David H.  
EJ H.  
Ethan D.  
Ezra M.  
Forrest A.  
Harper M.  
James E.  
Jayson D.  
Josie E.  
Riker B.  
Sophia E.  
Spencer H.  
Thatcher H.

**Praise Band**

Julian Berkowitz (Drums)  
Scott Dyer (Guitar) (Bass)  
Ruth Filipiak (Vocals)  
Dan Lamaestra (Leader; Piano; Vocals)  
Andy Muich (Guitar; Vocals)  
Steve Mutter (Bass)  
Bruno Nasta (Violin)  
Maryanne Perkel (Cello)

**Video & Audio Production**

Matt Hardy  
Dan Lamaestra

**Worship Materials Support**

Julie Schorfheide

*The Bible verses used in this service were quoted from the New International Reader's Version (NIrV) and the Easy-to-Read Version (ERV).*

*"Silent Night Holy Night" – arranged by Dan Lamaestra, 2020*