

To Us a Child Is Born

A Christmas Program for Young Children (Early Childhood Program)

Note to Director: See Leader Notes for additional helps for staging and preparing children for this program.

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Processional Hymn: O Come, Little Children

MFH, p. 48

Congregation:

O come, little children, O come, one and all,
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your Joy, and Delight.

Children:

He's born in a stable for you and for me;
Draw near by the bright, gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.

Congregation or Ensemble:

See Mary and Joseph, with love-beaming eyes,
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,
While angels sing loud alleluias above.

Congregation and Children:

Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Responsive Reading

Leader: To us . . .

People: A Child is born!

Leader: To us . . .

People: A Son is given!

Leader: This Christmas, we receive . . .

People: The blessed gift of heaven.

Hymn: To Us a Child Is Born

SCY 3:1

Children:

Refrain:

To us a Child is born,

To us a Son is given.

This Christmas we receive

The blessed gift of heaven.

Stanza 1:

The prophets spoke about

The Savior God would send,

The glorious Prince of Peace

Whose kingdom shall not end. *All sing refrain.*

The Message Presented by the Children

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Children in costume as MARY, JOSEPH, SHEPHERDS, SHEEP, ANGEL, and MANY ANGELS come forward and pantomime action and create a manger scene during the readings.

SPEAKER 1: Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. . . . Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” . . . All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call His name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. And he called His name Jesus. *Matthew 1:18–25*

MARY and JOSEPH ENTER from the back of the room. MARY and JOSEPH stop and sit by the manger. MARY puts BABY JESUS in the manger.

Action Rhyme: Jesus Was a Baby Boy

Older Children:

Jesus was a baby boy,

Came to earth to bring us joy.

God had promised us His Son,

So that sin would be undone.

What a gift our Father gave:

Jesus Christ, who’s strong to save!

Thanks to Him, we are set free.

We are in God’s family!

Rock arms, as if holding a baby.

Point down, then wave hands in the air.

Hold one finger up.

Add a finger to make a cross.

Hold hands out.

Make muscles.

Wave hands in the air.

Hug selves.

Hymn: God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392:1, 3, 5

Children:

God loves me dearly,

Grants me salvation,

God loves me dearly,

Loves even me. *Refrain*

Refrain:

Therefore I'll say again:

God loves me dearly,

God loves me dearly,

Loves even me.

Congregation and Children:

He sent forth Jesus,

My dear Redeemer,

He sent forth Jesus

And set me free. *All sing refrain.*

Now I will praise You,

O Love Eternal;

Now I will praise You

All my life long. *All sing refrain.*

Song: To Us a Child Is Born**SCY 3:2***Children:**Refrain:*

To us a Child is born,

To us a Son is given.

This Christmas we receive

The blessed gift of heaven.

Stanza 2:

The angels sang God's praise

Amid the heavens bright.

We also join in song

And fill the church with light. *All sing refrain.*

SHEPHERDS and SHEEP ENTER and stand in their field. ANGELS ENTER and stand near SHEPHERDS.