

***Behold the Lamb***  
**Advent Worship Series – Week 3**  
***The Divine Spendthrift***

**WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES**

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

**Announcements & Offering**

**Lighting of Advent Candle**

**Reader 1:** Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

**Reader 2:** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,

**Reader 1:** All thy people's consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

**Reader 2:** That whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Reader 1:** Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring.

**Reader 2:** Lord, deliver us and reign in our hearts forever. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.  
(Words by Charles Wesley)

[A person lights the candle during song]

|   |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| <b>SB#104 – Come thou long expected Jesus</b><br>(no chorus for Hyfrydol) | TB-370 – Hyfrydol                      | D1-T14           |
| <b>Additional Optional Songs</b>  |  |                  |
| <b>SB#100 – Angels, from the realms of glory</b>                          | TB-398 – Come and Worship (Regent Sq.) | HTD4-T12 (4 vs.) |

|   |                             |          |
|---|-----------------------------|----------|
| <b>SB#133 – Wonderful counselor</b>       | TB-859 – The Light Has Come | HCD1-T10 |
| <b>HC#10 – The Light Has Come</b>         | HC-10                       |          |
| <b>CF#14 – Good Christian Men Rejoice</b> | CF-14                       | No CD    |

**Drama: No Such Thing**

**Reading:**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus define the essence of worship in the New Testament, and John related Christ’s coming as the fulfillment of Israel’s longing for the Messiah. The apostle repeatedly revealed Jesus’ deity and humanity working together, compelling worship in those who witnessed his miracles and heard his words. But John was not just writing a biography of an interesting figure; he was extending the Good News to us, inviting us to “believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him have life”. Such news is indeed cause for rejoicing.

*(Praise and Worship Study Bible, page 1307)*

|  |                                       |                                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>SB#113 – Joy to the world!</b>  | TB-87 – Joy to the World!             | HTD4-T9 (3 vs.)                   |
| <b>Additional Optional Songs</b>   |                                       |                                   |
| <b>SB#112 – It was on a starry night</b><br><b>HC#180</b>                          | TB-535 – same<br>HC-280               | HCD16-T20                         |
| <b>SB#103 – Christians awake, salute the happy morn</b>                            | TB-476 – same                         | HTD10-T1 (3 vs.)                  |
| <b>SB#104 – Come, Thou long expected Jesus,</b>                                    | TB-370 – Hyfrydol                     | HTD1-T14 (3 vs.)                  |
| <b>SB#108 – Hark! The herald angels sing</b>                                       | TB-270 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | HTD4-T5 (3 vs.)                   |
| <b>SB#116 – O come, all ye faithful</b><br><b>HC#140 – O Come, All Ye Faithful</b> | TB-496 – Adeste Fideles<br>HC-140     | HTD3 –T1 (3 vs.)<br><br>HCD12-T20 |
| <b>CF#14 – Good Christian Men Rejoice</b>  | CF-14                                 | No CD                             |

**Reading:**

This gift of love is far beyond all comprehension. This gift of love...he sent his beloved son to die so that we who believe in Him might live forever. This gift of love lavished upon us...that we may be called his children. This gift is so deep that nothing in all creation can take it away from us.

*(Praise and Worship Bible, page 1426)*

|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| <b>HC#127 - How Deep the Father’s Love</b> | HC-127 | HCD11–T17 |
| <b>Additional Optional Songs</b>           |        |           |
| <b>HC#72 – Emmanuel</b>                    | HC-72  | HCD6-T12  |

|  |                       |                   |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>HC#89 – Knowing You</b>                                       | HC-89                 | HCD7-T19          |
| <b>HC#123 – Shine on Us</b>                                      | HC-123                | HCD11-T13         |
| <b>HC#156 – Enter In</b>   | HC-156                | HCD14-T16         |
| <b>HC#169 – Hallelujah</b>                                       | HC-169                | HCD15-T19         |
| <b>HC#187 – Jesus, Messiah</b>                                   | HC-187                | HCD17-T17         |
| <b>HC#220 – Incarnate</b>  | HC-220                | HCD20-T20         |
| <b>HC#226 – I Worship You</b>                                    | HC-226                | HCD21-T16         |
| <b>SB#117 – O come, O come, Immanuel</b>                         | TB-444 – same         | TD11-T8 (3 vs.)   |
| <b>SB#124 – Silent night! Holy night!</b>                        | TB-842 – Stille Nacht | HTD4-T15 (3 vs.)  |
| <b>SB#153 – Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown</b> | TB-94 – Margaret      | HTD10 –T6 (4 vs.) |
| <b>SB#158 – Who is he in yonder stall</b>                        | TB-287 – Who is he?   | HTD10-T19 (6 vs.) |

### Prayer:

Yes, Lord Jesus, I believe, I believe that you are the resurrection, the one who has conquered death. I believe that you are the life, the one from whom we receive divine abundance forever. I believe that you are the Christ. God's anointed one who has come to save us. I believe that you are the Son of God, the King who reigns forever, the only Son who reveals the Father to us. My mind affirms that all of this is true and my heart confirms with a resounding "Amen!" I place my full confidence in you, for you alone are worthy of my trust. Yes, Lord, I do believe!

*(Praise and Worship Bible, page 1443)*

### Message – The Divine Spendthrift

|  |               |                              |
|--|---------------|------------------------------|
| <b>SB#118 – O little town of Bethlehem</b> | TB-136 – same | HTD3-T5 (3 vs.)<br>Bethlehem |
| <b>Additional Optional Songs</b>           |               |                              |
| <b>HC#120 – In the Manger</b>              | HC-120        | HCD10-T20                    |
| <b>HC#123 – Shine on Us</b>                | HC-123        | HCD11-T13                    |
| <b>HC#139 – There is a Message</b>         | HC-139        | HCD12-T19                    |
| <b>HC#179 – Come to Jesus</b>              | HC-179        | HCD16-T19                    |
| <b>HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty</b>     | HC-219        | HCD20-T19                    |
| <b>HC#220 – Incarnate</b>                  | HC-220        | HCD20-T20                    |
| <b>HC#226 – I Worship You</b>              | HC-226        | HCD21-T16                    |

### Benediction

|   |                                   |                              |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Vocal Benediction – HC#140 – O Come, All Ye Faithful</b> | HC-140<br>TB-552 – Adeste Fideles | HCD12-T20<br>HTD3-T1 (3 vs.) |
| <b>SB#85 – O come, all ye faithful</b>                      |                                   |                              |
| <b>Additional Optional Songs</b>                            |                                   |                              |
| <b>HC#128 – My Tribute</b>                                  | HC-128                            | HCD11-T18                    |
| <b>HC#149 – In Christ Alone</b>                             | HC-149                            | HCD13-T19                    |

|   |                         |           |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>HC#151 – Fairest Lord Jesus</b>                        | HC-151                  | HCD14-T11 |
| <b>SB#112 – It was on a starry night</b><br><b>HC#180</b> | TB-535 – same<br>HC-280 | HCD16-T20 |
| <b>HC#260 – Go, Tell it on the Mountain</b>               | HC-260                  | HCD24-T20 |

***Behold the Lamb***  
**Advent Worship Series – Week 3**  
***The Divine Spendthrift***

**Candle Lighting**

**Reader 1:** Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

**Reader 2:** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,

**Reader 1:** All thy people's consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

**Reader 2:** That whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Reader 1:** Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring.

**Reader 2:** Lord, deliver us and reign in our hearts forever. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

*(Words by Charles Wesley)*

*[Light Candle]*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Week #3</b>   |   |
| <b>DRAMA</b><br><b>No Such Thing</b><br><b>By Martyn Scott Thomas</b><br>© 2003 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. |   |
| <b>Scripture:</b>  | John 3:16   |
| <b>Synopsis:</b>   | Two friends find a gift and discuss whether or not to accept it.    |
| <b>Characters:</b>   | <b>Chris</b> – Any man (or woman).<br><b>John</b> – Chris’s friend. |
| <b>Props/Costumes:</b>   | A large wrapped gift box with a bow on top.                         |
| <b>Setting:</b>  | Bare stage.   |
| <b>Running Time:</b>   | 2:30 minutes.   |

[Chris and John enter to find a large wrapped present center stage.]

**Chris:** Hey, John. Look at this.

**John:** What is it?

**Chris:** It looks like a present.

**John:** It’s pretty big. Whose do you think it is?

**Chris:** I don’t know. See if it has a tag.

**John:** I’m not touching it. You see if it has a tag.

**Chris:** [*looks at package*] Here’s one. It says, “Free gift for ‘Whosoever.’”

**John:** Whosoever?

**Chris:** Yeah, whosoever.

**John:** Well, who’s that?

**Chris:** Whosoever. Whoever. Anybody.

**John:** Anybody?

**Chris:** Anybody. So, do you want a gift?

**John:** I’m not sure. Who’s it from?

**Chris:** [reading] From God.

**John:** From God?

**Chris:** From God.

**John:** [disbelieving] God left this package here for whosoever?

**Chris:** That's what it says. So, do you want a free gift?

**John:** I'm not sure. What's in it?

**Chris:** I don't know. I guess we have to open it to find out. [*starts to open package*]

**John:** Don't touch that!

**Chris:** What? I thought you wanted to know what was inside.

**John:** I did. But, I don't anymore. Let's just go.

**Chris:** No, I want to open it.

**John:** But, what if it's something bad?

**Chris:** It's from God. He wouldn't give something bad.

**John:** How do you know? Maybe this is for whosoever was really bad and it's some kind of punishment.

**Chris:** Well, it doesn't say for "Whosoever was really bad," it just says "Whosoever."

**John:** Well, if you were trying to punish somebody really bad, would you let them know. It could be a trick. I wouldn't open it.

**Chris:** Well, you don't have to. I'll do it all by myself.

**John:** Wait!

**Chris:** What now?

**John:** What if it has strings attached.

**Chris:** I don't see any strings, just a nice pretty bow.

**John:** No, I mean what if there are conditions to accepting this gift.

**Chris:** The tag doesn't say anything about conditions. It just says, "free gift."

**John:** Yeah, but what if by opening the gift, God wants you to give him your new puppy.

**Chris:** I don't have a puppy.

**John:** Well then, maybe this gift isn't for you.

**Chris:** But the tag says, "Whosoever," not "Whoever has a puppy."

**John:** But, why would God give a free gift to just anybody?

**Chris:** Maybe, because he loves everybody.

**John:** I still don't think you should open it. It just seems too good to be true. You know what they say, "There's no such thing as a free lunch."

**Chris:** First of all, who are they? And second of all, this isn't lunch. It's a free gift and I'm going to open it.

**John:** You do what you want. But don't say I didn't warn you. [*exits*]

**Chris:** [*carefully unwraps present, opens box and looks inside, amazed*] Wow!

[*Blackout*]

***Behold the Lamb***  
**The Divine Spendthrift**  
**Advent Sermon – Week 3**

**By Colonel Henry Gariepy**

*For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

This, one of the most beloved texts of the Bible, has been called, “the Gospel in a nutshell.” It rises as a towering peak of eternal truth in the Word of God. It proclaims the love of God in immortal words.

**The Divine Presence**

This verse speaks to us of the divine person, God the Father – “For God.” Its truth deals with the Infinite, the Ultimate Reality, the One Who is “measureless might, ineffable love,” our Creator and Heavenly father.

At Christmas our thoughts focus on the Christ Child and his coming. But this verse calls us beyond Bethlehem to the eternal courts of God. Hovering over the miracle of the cradle is the majesty and the love of God the Father, the Creator.

**The Divine Passion**

Our text eloquently proclaims the divine passion – “so loved.” It would have been incredible enough for God to love us. But phrase speaks of the intensity and the passion of God’s love for us.

That “God so loved” us may well be the most amazing fact of the universe. As a songwriter has eloquently expressed it:

The love of God is greater far/Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,/And reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,/God gave his Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,/And pardoned from his sin.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,/ And were the skies of parchment made;  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,/And ev’ry man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above/Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,/Tho’ stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure – The saints’ and angels’ song.

## **The Divine Provision**

The evangelist further preaches to us of the divine provision – “He gave his one and only Son.” He Who was without sin came to be the Sinbearer. God the Father provided His Son to reconcile us to Himself by the shed blood of the Lamb of God.

God our Father is the Divine Spendthrift on our behalf. He bestows with such abandonment the bounty and beauty of our world. But our text proclaims his most priceless gift to humankind – his only Son.

We often contemplate the sacrifice of the Son, but the gospel here reminds us of the Father’s offering in giving up his Son. The sacrifice of an only son would be costly on a human level, but how infinitely more so was it on the divine level.

God the Father made the supreme sacrifice in the giving of his Son for us and the world. For 33 years the Godhead was impoverished as our Lord left his Father’s home and took upon himself our finiteness and infirmities. Nor can we begin to imagine the suffering of God the Father at the violence, injustice and ignominy inflicted upon his Son on Calvary.

Jesus was “his one and only Son.” God had to bear seeing his beloved and holy Son endure the shame, the mockery, the cruelty, the violence of men. Some have suggested that the darkness which veiled Calvary at the crucifixion was because God could not bear to look on that scene of unspeakable suffering.

We hurt deeply when a loved one suffers. The quakes that come into the lives of those we love register high on the Richter scale of our own hearts. How much greater would be the suffering of an all holy, all loving, infinite God!

## **The People**

For whom was this stupendous sacrifice made on the part of God the Father? Praise God, it was for the whosoever – “whoever believes.” Just think, God loves you. He gave his one and only Son for your salvation. And there awaits in the world to come his matchless gift of eternal life!

If a person of great importance calls at our home, a high honor is bestowed upon us. God visiting our planet and entering our lives bestows the greatest honor upon us. We know the value of our soul when we see the price God paid in Bethlehem and at Calvary to redeem us from sin.

## **The Peril**

But in our text lurks also a word that denotes danger – “perish.” They who do not believe on Christ will perish instead of inheriting eternal life.

There looms the awesome responsibility of decision. A choice allowed to go by default is still a choice. Tennyson in his *In Memoriam* reminds us, “Our wills are ours, to make them thine.”

## **Our Part**

This golden text of John 3:16 calls us to believe on the One who came at Christmas. Its promise of salvation and eternal life is for “whoever believes in him.” To believe means more than an intellectual faith, more than an assent that the record is true. It means to trust ourselves fully to the Lord Jesus Christ, to surrender to his will, and to let him live his life in us.

Let us not miss the true meaning and majesty of Christmas, which is to believe on Jesus as God’s Son and our Savior. Such love of God, as declared by John 3:16, transcends our understanding but constrains us to say with the hymn writer, “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, my soul, my all.”

## **Prayer**

Our Heavenly Father, we offer our unspeakable gratitude for your stupendous gift of your only Son for our Salvation. With your servant the poet of old, we pray:

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today;  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel.