

***Behold the Lamb***  
**Advent Worship Series – Week 2**  
***The Grand Miracle***

**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.

**Drama: APS (Angelic Parcel Service)**

**Call to Worship:**

God became man, took upon Him a birth from the fallen nature. But why was this done? Or wherein lies the depth of this mystery? How does all this manifest the infinity of the divine love towards man?

It is because nothing less than this mysterious incarnation which astonishes even angels, could open a way, or begin a possibility, for fallen man to be born again from above, and to be made once again a partaker of the divine nature.

*(Praise and Worship Bible, page 1422)*

<b>SB#82 Hark! the herald angels sing;</b>	TB-322 – Hark! the herald angels sing	D4–T5
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>SB#90 – The first Noel the angel did say</b>	TB-816 – The First Nowell	D6-T18

**Lighting of Advent Candle**

**Reader 1:** Wonderful counselor, Mighty God among us;  
 Everlasting Father, Prince who rules in peace.  
 To us a Child is born,  
 To us a Son is giv'n.  
 To those who walked in darkness  
 The light has come.

**Reader 2:** Lord, shine your light on us. Help us to realize the sacrifice you made for us,  
 leaving your Heavenly throne for a manger.

**Reader 1:** Son of God, Son of Man, Word of God incarnate;  
 Suffering Savior, Glorious Risen Lord.  
 For God so loved the world,

He gave His only son;  
 No more we walk in darkness,  
 The light has come.

**Reader 2:** Lord, shine your light on us. Help us to believe in you and receive your gift of eternal life.

**Reader 1:** King of kings, Lord of lords, Son of God exalted;  
 Name above ev'ry name, Lamb upon the throne.  
 This king will come again,  
 The Father's only Son;  
 No more a world in darkness,  
 The light will come.

**Reader 2:** Lord, shine your light on us. Help us to exalt you above all else and proclaim your majesty to the world around us.

[A person lights the candle during song]

<b>HC#10 – The Light Has come</b>	HC#10	HCD1–T10
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>HC#123 – Shine on Us</b>	HC#123	HCD11-T13
<b>HC#99 – Shine, Jesus, Shine</b>	HC#99	HCD8–T19

**Prayer:**

O Jesus, Word of God Incarnate who shines with the very glory of God, are you also the Lamb of God? Will you bear the sins of the world upon your sinless shoulders? Will you, the author of life, die in the place of sinful humanity? O Lord Jesus, you have come in the flesh not only to reveal the Father but also to pay for the sins of humanity. What a wonder! What a sacrifice! O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on me a sinner!

*(Praise and Worship Bible, page 1422)*

**Message: The Grand Miracle**

<b>SB#153 – Thou didst leave thy throne</b>	TB-94 - Margaret	D10-T6
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>HC#89 – Knowing You</b>	HC-89	HCD7-T19
<b>HC#120 – In the Manger</b>	HC-120	HCD10-T20
<b>HC#123 – Shine on Us</b>	HC-123	HCD11–T13
<b>HC#127 – How Deep the Father’s Love for us</b>	HC-127	HCD11-T17
<b>HC#136 – We All Bow Down</b>	HC-136	HCD12-T16
<b>HC#139 – There is a Message</b>	HC-139	HCD12-T19
<b>HC#156 – Enter In</b>	HC-156	HCD14-T16
<b>HC#169 – Hallelujah</b>	HC-169	HCD15-T19

<b>HC#179 – Come to Jesus</b>	HC-179	HCD16-T19
<b>HC#186 – When I look into your holiness</b>	HC-186	HCD17-T16
<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

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we come with praise and thanksgiving for the marvel and miracle of your birth we celebrate this season. Come once again to us this hour that we may rejoice because you have been born in our hearts. We pray that in all our labors, in all our relationships, in all of our life, you will live and love through us, in all our seasons of life, as our Savior and Lord. In your name, we pray.

(Colonel Henry Gariepy)

<b>Vocal Benediction – HC#140 – O Come, All Ye Faithful SB#85 – O come, all ye faithful</b>	HC-140 TB-552 – Adeste Fideles	HCD12-T20 HTD3-T1 (3 vs.)
<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 HC#180</b>	TB-535 – same 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 2**  
***The Grand Miracle***

**Candle Lighting**

**Reader 1:** Wonderful counselor, Mighty God among us;  
Everlasting Father, Prince who rules in peace.  
To us a Child is born,  
To us a Son is giv'n.  
To those who walked in darkness  
The light has come.

**Reader 2:** Lord, shine your light on us. Help us to realize the sacrifice you made for us,  
leaving your Heavenly throne for a manger.

**Reader 1:** Son of God, Son of Man, Word of God incarnate;  
Suffering Saviour, glorious risen Lord.  
For God so loved the world,  
He gave His only son;  
No more we walk in darkness,  
The light has come.

**Reader 2:** Lord, shine your light on us. Help us to believe in you and receive your gift of  
eternal life.

**Reader 1:** King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Son of God exalted;  
Name above ev'ry name, Lamb upon the throne.  
This king will come again,  
The Father's only Son;  
No more a world in darkness,  
The light will come.

**Reader 2:** Lord, shine your light on us. Help us to exalt you above all else and proclaim  
your majesty to the world around us.

[Light Candle]

<b>Week #2</b>	
<b>DRAMA</b> <b>APS (Angelic Parcel Service)</b> <b>By Martyn Scott Thomas</b> © 2003 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission.	
<b>Scripture:</b>	John 1:1-14, Luke 1:26-38
<b>Synopsis:</b>	Two angels discuss their instructions to help deliver “the gift” and try to find a box big enough to deliver it.
<b>Characters:</b>	<b>Gabe</b> – Angel 1 <b>Mike</b> – Angel 2
<b>Props/Costumes:</b>	An empty table and boxes of various sizes. Angel costumes.
<b>Setting:</b>	The mailing room of heaven.
<b>Running Time:</b>	2:30 minutes.

*[Mike is standing by the table surrounded by boxes of various sizes, looking confused. Gabe enters.]*

**Gabe:** Mike, what are you doing?

**Mike:** I’m looking for a box.

**Gabe:** Well, you seem to be in the right place. *[picks up a small box]* How about this one?

**Mike:** No, that’s way too small.

**Gabe:** What are you delivering?

**Mike:** A big gift.

**Gabe:** *[picks up a bigger box]* Then, how about this one?

**Mike:** Still too small.

**Gabe:** Wow, it must be some package. What exactly are you delivering?

**Mike:** A really big gift.

**Gabe:** I know. You already told me that. Can you be more specific?

**Mike:** It’s a really special gift for the whole world, but I’m not sure if I can say anything else.

**Gabe:** You can tell me. I outrank you. I'm going to find out sooner or later, so you might as well tell me now so I can help you find what you need. [*picks up an even bigger box*] How about this one?

**Mike:** Nope, too small. I don't think we have anything here big enough.

**Gabe:** Mike, for the last time, what gift are you trying to deliver?

**Mike:** [*looking around, then whispering*] God's son.

**Gabe:** What?

**Mike:** [*looking around again, then whispering a little louder*] God's son.

**Gabe:** I heard what you said. I just can't believe what I heard.

**Mike:** Me neither. We're going to need a really big box. Maybe they have something over at receiving.

**Gabe:** No. I just can't believe you're trying to put God's son in a box.

**Mike:** Well, he's way too big for an envelope.

**Gabe:** That's not what I mean. If you're going to deliver God's son, you're going to need something really special.

**Mike:** Like a limousine?

**Gabe:** Let's start from the beginning. What exactly were your instructions?

**Mike:** Well, The Father himself called me to the throne the other day and told me about this special delivery he wanted to make. He said it was time for the Messiah to go to earth and save his people. And he wanted me to make sure the gift was delivered.

**Gabe:** So, you assumed he meant send it APS?

**Mike:** Sure. How else?

**Gabe:** Mike, I hate to break this to you, but the gift is already on its way.

**Mike:** What? I've personally processed every package leaving this mail room and I don't recall anything that said "Son of God."

**Gabe:** The gift is on its way, but it technically hasn't been "delivered" yet.

**Mike:** I'm not sure I'm following you.

**Gabe:** Do you remember that little trip I made to earth about nine months ago?

**Mike:** Yeah, to visit that girl. What was her name again?

**Gabe:** Mary.

**Mike:** Yeah, Mary. You went to tell her that she would be with child and give birth to a son and . . . [*realizing*] Ah. The gift. Nine months ago, so that means . . .

**Gabe:** Exactly. Now are you ready to go with me for the "delivery?"

**Mike:** So, I won't need any of these boxes?

**Gabe:** No, but we will need something to put the gift in once it's delivered.

**Mike:** Like a bassinet or something?

**Gabe:** More like a manger.

**Mike:** A manger? For a baby?

**Gabe:** I'll explain it to you on the way there. [*they exit*]

***Behold the Lamb***  
**The Grand Miracle**  
**Advent Sermon – Week 2**

**By Colonel Henry Gariepy**

*The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us (John 1:14).*

Something colossal, inexpressibly great, happened in a nondescript stable in the hamlet of Bethlehem on that first Christmas. That simple manger cradled the God of creation. The Creator of the cosmos had shrunk so small as to become a fetus inside a nervous teenager. “Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb,” marveled the poet John Donne.

In the miracle of the manger God came to planet earth as an infant, and each Advent season it once again takes our breath away. The Baby in the straw of the stable was the heart of God wrapped in human flesh!

**The ‘Hinge’ of History**

The Advent of Jesus Christ is the hinge of history. All that went before and all that comes after pivots around that momentous event. Our Lord’s birth was of such commanding importance that, as with a divine sword, it split the ages in half, with all history dated by his birth. Malcolm Muggeridge eloquently stated in the opening line of his book, titled, *Jesus*: “The coming of Jesus into the world is the most stupendous event of human history.”

What is there about the Advent of Jesus Christ that makes it so supremely important? John, in the breathtaking opening of his Gospel, declares: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” This sublime trilogy of truth affirms that Jesus Christ is eternal, that He has been with God through the ages, and that He is God.

John climaxes his peerless prologue with the astounding statement: “The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us” (1:14). A mighty miracle took place in Bethlehem when the eternal God clothed himself in our humanity. “God’s infinity/ Dwindled to infancy” is the seminal statement of the poet-priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins.

The Apostle Paul echoes this towering truth of God becoming man: “Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God...made Himself nothing...being made in human likeness” (Phil. 2:5-7). He is the God who, as this verse literally means, “emptied Himself.” We cannot conceive the unimaginable glory that Jesus put aside when He became a man. “God appeared in a body,” writes Paul (1 Tim. 3:16).

In the miracle of the Incarnation, Deity joined in inseparable union with humanity. C.S. Lewis in his book, *Miracles*, wrote: “The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or results from this.”

## **The Marvel of the Ages**

A child once looked at the photo of its long absent father, and longingly said, “I wish father would step out of the picture.” Through the ages the patriarchs and prophets gave a kind of picture of what God was like. But He was distant, remote somewhere in the heavens, and humankind wondered what He was like. Humanity’s longing was expressed in the cry of Job, “If only I knew where to find him!” (Job 23:3). In that crude manger of Bethlehem God “stepped out of the picture” that man had of him for centuries. Jesus became God’s supreme disclosure; God walking the earth in sandals, God showing in human terms his love and compassion for the world.

The manger of Bethlehem is the marvel of the ages. Think of it –

- God in a cradle!
- The hands of God that had tumbled galaxies into space became the small chubby hands of an infant.
- The feet of God, which had roamed through fiery worlds, became the tiny feet of a babe.
- He who kindled the fire of every giant star, in the miracle of the manger became clothed in human flesh.
- He who had created all things – from atoms to angels, from grass to galaxies, had in that moment come “down from his glory.”
- The cry from the Infant’s throat in that manger broke the silence of centuries as, for the first time, God’s voice was heard coming from human vocal chords.
- The God of creation, whose power is flaunted by orbiting spheres, unveiled his love in a Babe.
- The Infinite became the infinitesimal.
- The Son of God became the Son of Man that we might become sons of God.

No tongue of man or brain of scholar can explain this mighty transition that wrapped deity in the dust and decay of human flesh.

## **The Most Colossal Event**

“While walking on the moon one day” – with these words astronaut James Irwin began his address at a Salvation Army’s men’s rally in Philadelphia. He went on to describe his spiritual experience as Commander of Apollo 15 in its 1971 flight to the moon. He told how he looked out into space and saw the earth a quarter of a million miles away, suspended in space as a blue iridescent jewel. As he was walking on the moon, the thought came to Irwin that this was the greatest event in the history of the world – man walking on the moon! But at that moment he said that the Lord whispered to his heart, saying, “I did something greater than that. I walked on the earth!”

At Christmas we celebrate a colossal event that towers sublimely above all other events of history. We commemorate the Incarnation – the very invasion of Deity into our humanity, God

becoming man in the Babe of Bethlehem.

### **What Difference Does It Make?**

So what does it all mean? What difference does it make, or should it make? How does it, or should it, impact upon our lives?

What surpassing purpose wrought such a miraculous Advent? John, in his golden text of the Bible, proclaims the purpose of our Lord's coming: "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" (3:16). Christ came to rescue us from sin and its eternal judgment and to give us life that is abundant, purposeful and eternal. He was "born that man no more may die."

The Advent of Christ was God's unspeakable gift of love to the world. The apostle Paul describes this miracle in immortal words: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

- He was the God who went from riches to rags that we might go from rags to riches.
- He was the God who became a pauper that we might become a prince.
- He was the God who became bankrupt that we might know the imperishable riches of the Kingdom.
- He was the God who descended the steps of glory that we might ascend with Him to worlds unknown.

Indeed, the Christ child, born in the feeding trough of a Bethlehem cattle shed, became the Lamb of God whose sacrifice opened for us the door of salvation. Through the merit of his life, death and resurrection, we have the glorious possibility of knowing God – his presence, power, purpose and peace in our lives.

Let us come this Christmas season, reverently and worshipfully before this marvel of the ages. For the miracle of Advent continues for those whose hearts become a cradle for his birth. Because of that infinite love so mightily and marvelously expressed, you and I can become children of God, with an eternal destiny.

At Christmas, God is proclaiming once again to each of us, "I love you." Let us, in the words of the simple chorus, respond with the prayer:

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for you.

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we come with praise and thanksgiving for the marvel and miracle of your birth we celebrate this season. Come once again to us this hour that we may rejoice because you have been born in our hearts. We pray that in all our labors, in all our relationships, in all of our life,

you will live and love through us, in all our seasons of life, as our Savior and Lord. In your name, we pray.