

NAMES OF JESUS
Mighty God
Advent Worship Series – Week 2
December 7, 2008

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 and Offering

“...and His Name shall be called...Mighty God”

Call to Worship:

What if God were good but weak? Beautiful but powerless? He might want to bless us but be unable to. Wouldn't this God of good intentions be a bit pathetic? Would any of us fall on our faces before him like Abraham did when God revealed himself as *El Shaddai*? Would we even bother to pray to such a God?

God revealed himself as *El Shaddai*, God Almighty, to Abram and told him of the everlasting covenant he was establishing with him and his descendants. Until the time of Moses, when another divine name was revealed, the patriarchs considered *El Shaddai* the covenant name of God, the one for whom nothing is impossible.

(Praying the Names of God, page 49)

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| HC#141 – All Hail the Power | HC-141 | HCD13-T11 |
| Additional Optional Songs | | |
| SB#100 – Angels, from the realms of glory | TB-398 – Come and Worship (Regent Sq.) | HTD4-T12 (4 vs.) |
| SB#113 – Joy to the world! | TB-87 – Joy to the World! | HTD4-T9 (3 vs.) |
| SB#114 – Light of the world | TB-653 – Here I am to Worship | |
| HC#146 – Here I am to Worship | HC-146 | HCD13-T16 |

Advent Candle Lighting:

- Solo 1:** Eight days after the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary presented the boy for the covenant of circumcision, a rite that identified Him as a genuine son of the covenant between God and Abraham. And, as custom dictated, they made his name official: *Yeshua*. “Yahweh saves.” (*Jesus*, page 45)
- Solo 2:** Just as Yahweh is God’s personal name revealed in the Old Testament, Jesus is the personal name of the One we call Redeemer, Lord, and Christ. His name is intimately linked to the God of the Hebrew Scriptures because the name *Yeshua* means “Yahweh is salvation.”
- Solo 1:** Indeed, Jesus is Yahweh come to earth. If you have ever pictured God as a distant, wrathful Being, you will have to reconsider that portrait in light of Jesus Christ, who is God bending toward us, God becoming one of us, God reaching out in mercy, God humbling himself, God nailed to a cross, God raising from the grave to show us the way home. (*Praying the Names of God*, page 38)
- Solo 2:** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

[Light 2nd Advent candle]

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| HC#136 – We All Bow Down | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |
| Additional Optional Songs | | |
| HC#45 – While We are Waiting, Come | HC-45 | HCD3-T15 |
| HC#186 – When I look into your holiness | HC-186 | HCD17-T16 |
| HC#187 – Jesus, Messiah | HC-187 | HCD17-T17 |
| HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty | HC-219 | HCD20-T19 |
| HC#220 – Incarnate | HC-220 | HCD20-T20 |
| HC#226 – I Worship You | HC-226 | HCD21-T16 |

Hallowed Be Thy Name

Responsive Scripture:

Leader: The name “Mighty God” is an Old Testament title applied to the coming Messiah. It is the compound Hebrew term *El Gibbor*, and both parts of the name need to be understood. The first part of the title is *El*. Isaiah 9:6 was predicting One who would be far more than a man. He is the One of whom John wrote:

All: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all*

things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”
(John 1:1-3)

Leader: The other part of the name is *Gibbor*, which means “strength, power, hero.” The focus of Isaiah’s prophecy is *El Gibbor*, the Mighty God who is our true Hero. What this prophet in the seventh century BC anticipated, the New Testament confirms. Because the Messiah would be God, He would have God’s power. But to Isaiah, the amazing thing was that the Messiah would not only have the power of God, He would be the God of God, He would be the God of power! In other parts of his prophecy, Isaiah gave more details of what this mighty power would look like. For instance, in a messianic section of his prophecy, Isaiah declared:

All: *“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”*
(Isaiah 61:1-3)

Leader: Jesus used Isaiah 61:1-3 to make His claim as the Messiah. But because He only partially fulfilled this prophecy in His first coming, He was only partially recognized. By His resurrection, perfect life, sacrificial death, and many mighty signs He showed we could trust Him to return one day to rule the world. Most of His own people rejected Him. John wrote:

All: *“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”*
(John 1:11)

Leader: These and thousands of other first-century Jews believed—and for good reason. Jesus Christ proved Himself to be *El Gibbor* as He displayed His life-changing might and power. For those who see their need of a Savior, the evidence of Christ’s mighty power is overwhelming. For those who sense their own weakness and inability to live up to God’s standard, the apostle John wrote,

All: *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”* (John 1:12)

Leader: What the New Testament provides is an opportunity to see the fullness of the “Mighty God” Isaiah was predicting. The clear statement of the Word

of God is that Christ displayed His might in the creation of the world before He physically entered the world. John 1:3 says:

All: *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

Leader: Colossians 1:16 agrees:

All: *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”*

Leader: In the midst of evidence that shows Christ to be the Mighty God, it is important to remember that this is more than just theological data. It is divinely inspired evidence that urges us to see and respond to Christ as He is—our “Mighty God.” In view of the predictive evidence of Isaiah and the historic record of the Gospels, how can we see our Lord Jesus Christ as anything less than the Mighty God, *El Gibbor*?

(A Powerful Name: “Mighty God” from “Our Daily Bread,” Christmas Edition, 2007)

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| Drama: Mighty God |
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| HC#148 – Agnus Dei | HC-148 | HCD13-T18 |
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Prayer:

Almighty God, you possess all power, all authority, and all knowledge. Nothing is impossible for you; and yet you choose to work through your people. Help me to know you as my All-Powerful God, the one who is able to sustain and bless me, to fulfill every promise you make. Increase my awe of you and of your power so that I may follow you faithfully, always believing you are enough for me. What greater honor could there be in life than to be used by you for your good pleasure? Lord, set me apart for your noble purposes. Help me to live in a way that is pleasing to you. I want my life and not merely my lips to offer the worship of which you alone are worthy. Amen.

(The NIV Worship Bible, page 1608, Praying the Names of God, page 41)

Message – Our Mighty God

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| HC#123 – Shine on Us | HC-123 | HCD11-T13 |
| Additional Optional Songs | | |
| HC#120 – In the Manger | HC-120 | HCD10-T20 |
| SB#153 – Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown | TB-94 – Margaret | HTD10-T6 (4 vs.) |
| HC#186 – When I look into your holiness | HC-186 | HCD17-T16 |
| HC#187 – Jesus, Messiah | HC-187 | HCD17-T17 |
| HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty | HC-219 | HCD20-T19 |

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| HC#220 – Incarnate | HC-220 | HCD20-T20 |
| HC#226 – I Worship You | HC-226 | HCD21-T16 |

Benediction:

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. Amen.

(Colonel Henry Gariepy)

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| HC#180 – Starry Night | HC-180 | HCD16-T20 |
| Vocal Benediction Options | | |
| HC#140 – O Come, All Ye Faithful | HC-140 | HCD12-T20 |
| HC#260 – Go Tell it on the Mountain | HC-15 | HCD24-T20 |

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| Week # 2 | |
| DRAMA | |
| Mighty God | |
| By Martyn Scott Thomas | |
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| Topic: | God, Creation |
| Scripture: | John 1:1-3, 14; Revelation 5:12. |
| Synopsis: | Readers discuss the role of Christ in Creation. |
| Characters: | Reader 1 Reader 2 |
| Props/Costumes: | None. |
| Setting: | Bare stage. |
| Running Time: | 3 minutes. |

[Readers face the congregation and recite as one reader.]

Reader 1: In the beginning was the Word,

Reader 2: And the Word was with God,

Reader 1: And the Word was God.

Reader 2: He was with God in the beginning.

Reader 1: Through him all things were made;

Reader 2: Without him nothing was made that has been made.

Reader 1: *[stopping to think – to Reader 2]* Nothing?

Reader 2: *[to Reader 1]* Nothing.

Reader 1: Fish?

Reader 2: Fish.

Reader 1: Birds?

Reader 2: Birds.

Reader 1: Worms?

Reader 2: Worms.

Reader 1: What about the stars?

Reader 2: He made them.

Reader 1: And the sun?

Reader 2: He made that, too.

Reader 1: The moon?

Reader 2: The moon.

Reader 1: [*thinking*] What about man?

Reader 2: He made man, too.

Reader 1: But I thought he was a man.

Reader 2: He was a man. But he was also God.

Reader 1: The God?

Reader 2: The One and Only.

Reader 1: And he created everything?

Reader 2: Without him nothing was made that has been made.

Reader 1: What about roses?

Reader 2: He made the roses.

Reader 1: And the thorns?

Reader 2: Even the thorns he would later wear.

Reader 1: What about trees?

Reader 2: He made the trees. Even the one on which he would later be hung.

Reader 1: What about stones?

Reader 2: Even the one used to seal His tomb.

Reader 1: So, He made everything.

Reader 2: Everything.

[*Readers turn back to congregation.*]

Reader 1: In the beginning was the Word,
Reader 2: And the Word was with God,
Reader 1: And the Word was God.
Reader 2: He was with God in the beginning.
Reader 1: The Word became flesh
Reader 2: And made his dwelling among us.
Reader 1: We have seen his glory,
Reader 2: The glory of the One and Only,
Reader 1: Who came from the Father,
Reader 2: Full of grace and truth.
Reader 1: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
Reader 2: To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
Both: And honor and glory and praise!

[*Blackout*]

NAMES OF JESUS
Advent Sermon – Week 2
December 7, 2008

Our Mighty God
by Tom Shepard

Text: Isaiah 9:6

Have you ever found yourself at the mercy of someone else? Has your car ever broken down while you were quite a distance from home? Have you ever had a flat tire and gone to get the spare, only to find that the spare was flat, too (or you didn't have one)? Have you ever been traveling and lost your way? Did you get turned around and lost and have to stop and ask for directions? It's not a fun feeling, is it?

Two years ago, James Kim, his wife Kati, and their two infant daughters left San Francisco on November 18th for a combined vacation and work trip. They spent Thanksgiving in Seattle, Washington, with family, and then went to Portland, Oregon, to visit with a friend. After the visit in Portland, the family intended to take state Highway 42 over to the coast, but missed the turnoff. So they decided to drive the 55 miles down Interstate 5 to Grants Pass. There they turned onto Bear Camp Road, which is lightly traveled—even in the summer—and is often closed in the winter.

It was stormy, and James mistakenly turned off onto a logging road later that evening. They were soon winding up into the mountains, and when they reached higher elevations it began to snow. The family became hopelessly lost and finally became stranded in snow. The Kim family ran the engine of their station wagon to power its heater until the gas was gone. They ate what little food they had. After nearly a week of being stranded, James decided to venture out on foot to seek help.

James Kim put himself through a desperate ordeal, climbing down a ravine, over boulders and logs, through nearly impenetrable brush, and in and out of an icy creek, in what one rescue leader called a "superhuman" effort to save his family.

Kati and the girls were spotted two days after James had left to look for help. James' body was found two days after his family had been rescued.

(This article appeared on page A-1 of the San Francisco Chronicle December 7, 2006)

The Kim family had become lost. They had become absolutely dependent on others for their rescue. Over 100 rescue works had searched for them. Even a satellite had been turned to the area in hopes of finding James.

We need to remember that it is still easy to get stranded or lost. Not just physically, but also spiritually. We need someone who can rescue us. We need someone to save us.

Last week, we discovered that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. Today, we're going to discover that he is our Mighty God. Let us read from our text this morning:

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6, NIV).*

The prophecy of the coming Christ was given hundreds of years before his birth. The prophecy of this child's birth tells us that this child would not be ordinary, but extraordinary. Of course, the one that Isaiah is speaking of is Jesus. According to Isaiah, he would be called:

Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father
The Prince of Peace

Today we will look at Christ as our Mighty God. He is a Mighty God who is able to rescue you. He is a Mighty God who is able to save you. Luke's writings echo this thought:

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10, NIV).

Jesus is our Mighty God because:

I. He Knows Where You ARE

He knows what roads you have traveled. He knows what turns you have made. He knows what dead-end streets you have been down.

Jesus knows you better than you know yourself.

Do you remember the story of the women at the well? It's found in John 4. Do you remember how the conversation went? Jesus comes to the well and finds a Samaritan woman there. He speaks to her and asks her for a drink of water. She is taken aback because it was not proper for a Samaritan and a Jew to hold a conversation. But the conversation keeps going and they continue to talk about water. Jesus tells her that he can give her living water, and that she will never thirst again. She becomes interested and says, "Give me some."

Do you remember what happens next? Jesus tells her, *"Go, call your husband and come back."* The woman is put on the spot. Her lifestyle is exposed. She says, *"I have no husband."* Jesus doesn't leave it at that. He exposes her lifestyle even more, for he says to her, *"You are right when you say that you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true"* (John 4:17-19, NIV).

Jesus knows her life. Jesus knows her heart. Her lifestyle is completely exposed to him. He knows what she has done and with whom. Here is the scary part: He knows the same things about you and me.

He knows what roads you have traveled. He knows what turns you have made. He knows what dead-end streets you have been down, and He still loves you.

Jesus knows right where we are. He doesn't need a search party. He doesn't need a satellite. He knows the spiritual shape we are in, because he is a Mighty God.

Let me ask you a question. Do you know where you are?

Do you remember the story of Adam and Eve? Do you remember what happened after they ate the forbidden fruit? God comes to the garden and calls out, "Adam, where are you?"

Do you think that God did not know the answer to that question? Of course he did! God knew right where Adam was. But part of reaching safety is knowing where you are. Part of reaching safety is knowing that you are lost—that you have made some bad decisions.

When the rescuers found the body of James Kim, they back-tracked his trail. Do you know what they found? James had come within less than a mile of a lodge that had been closed for the winter. Inside there would have been safety. Inside there would have been food and warmth. James had made a decision to turn off the road and travel across country to seek safety. If he had continued down the road he would have reached the lodge, but he made a decision to leave the road. That decision cost him his life.

Where are you?

Jesus is our Mighty God because:

II. He Knows What SHAPE You Are In

Do you remember the story of the prodigal son? The son goes off and takes his inheritance and spends it all. He ends up broke, dirty and down. He ends up out in the pigpen feeding the swine. He becomes so hungry that even the pig food starts looking good. But then he starts thinking, "If I return to my father, maybe he will give me a job as a servant. I know that my father's servants are doing better than I am here." So he gets up and heads for home.

The Bible tells us that while the son was a "long way off" the father saw him coming. He ran out to greet him. He grabbed him, hugged him, and welcomed him back home. The son tried to apologize, but the father shouted out, "*Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he*

was lost and is found” (Luke 15:22-24, NIV).

Have you ever thought about the shape that the prodigal son was in when he returned home? I’m sure he was thinner. I sure he was dirtier. I’m sure he had a smell about him. Yet the Father loved him just the same.

What shape are you in? God knows. He not only knows where we have been but he knows what shape we are in. He knows that we are thinner; he knows that we are dirty and the smell of sin is still on us. For the Bible says,

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23, NIV).

Each and every one of us is in bad shape. Jesus knows that, and he loves us just the same.

Someone has said, “God loves us just as we are, but he loves us too much to leave us that way.” God knows what shape we are in, and he is willing to bring us in and build us up. What a Mighty God we have!

Jesus is our Mighty God because:

III. He Knows How Much TIME You Have Left

Here is a simple fact: I don’t know how much time you have left on this earth—only God knows. I don’t know how much time I have left to live—only God knows. I do know that the average American right now lives to around 78 years old. If I live to the average age, that’s great! But I may not live that long, or I could live longer.

“It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27, NKJV).

This verse from Hebrews does not talk about the number of days a person will live, but it does talk about what happens after we die—judgment. It seems to me that we should be more concerned about the judgment than we are about how long we live. God knows how long we will walk this earth. Our concern needs to be about how well we will do on the final exam. That day will determine whether we will walk the streets of gold. That day will determine whether we will live forever in heaven or hell. Our Mighty God knows how much time we have left, so let’s make the best use of it.

Jesus is our Mighty God because:

IV. He Knows Only He Can SAVE You

Let me ask you, how many of you have tried to be good? How many of you have tried to do the right thing? Yeah, me too. But you know what happens? Sometimes I fall flat on my face.

James Kim tried to do the right thing. He not only wanted to save himself, but he also wanted to save his wife and two little girls. But his efforts failed. His wife and daughters were saved not by his efforts but by the efforts of the rescuers. His efforts fell short even though he gave it his all. One rescue leader called his efforts "superhuman," but it still did not save his family. When it comes to being "saved" we are at the mercy of someone else. Look at what the Message paraphrase says about the idea that we can save ourselves:

"Saving is all his (God's) idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing!" (Ephesians 2:8-9, MSG).

Folks, God knows our efforts. He knows how hard we have tried. But only he can save. Only he can rescue us. It doesn't matter how good you have been—you still need a Savior. He is our Mighty God who can save and:

V. He Knows That You NEED Him

The Bible says:

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, NIV).

But here is the important part: Your rescuer will not come unless you call on him.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13, NIV).

I like the way the Message Bible says it:

"Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help" (Romans 10:13, MSG).

Here is the sad fact: Not everyone who is lost gets found. James Kim died. He made a valiant effort to save his family and himself. He is to be commended for that. He gave it his best shot. He gave it his best effort and he died in the process. Physically, his life ended. That is a sad fact and it cannot be changed.

But here is the good part. I also know that if James called on the name of Jesus, he was saved spiritually. For, "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help."

How about you? Have you ever called out, "Help, God!"?

You see, Jesus is our Mighty God. He has the power to seek and to save those who are lost. Where are you? Are you lost? Have you taken a wrong turn? Call to him and he WILL come and find you.