

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

This is a short Christmas service you may like to use. It is designed to be accessible to children whilst retaining a traditional feel.

Leader: Welcome
O come all ye faithful v 1, 3, 4, 5

Narrator: Advent is the time when we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Each week we have lighted candles on our Advent Wreath. Today, towards the end of the service, we will light a white one in the middle to show that Christ is here.

Light the Advent Candle – song

One candle is lit during each verse.

Leader: Please join in the responses on your service sheet and then remain seated for the carol.

Narrator: In the beginning when it was very dark
God said 'let there be light'

All: And there was light

Narrator: God's light goes on shining in the darkness

All: And the darkness has never put it out.

Silent Night v 2 and 3

Narrator: Many years ago a man called Joseph and his wife Mary set out from a tiny village called Nazareth to walk to the town of their ancestors, called Bethlehem. Mary was struggling because she was about to give birth to her first baby.

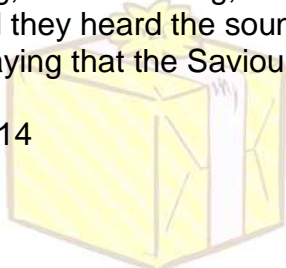
Bethlehem was very crowded and they had to make do with an animal shelter for the night. In that cold, dirty place the baby was born. This is how Luke tells the story.

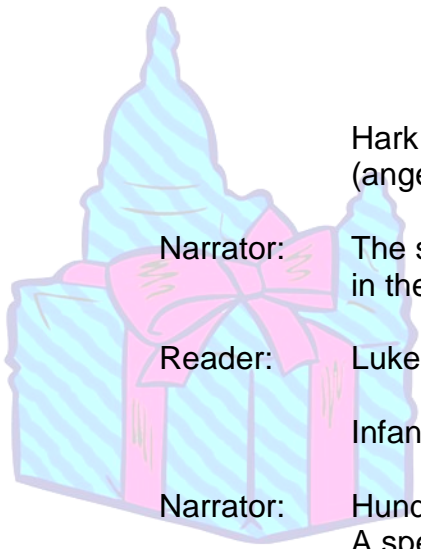
Reader: Luke 2 v 4-7

Once in Royal v 1, 2, 4
(during this hymn Mary and Joseph go forward with baby)

Narrator: Out in the fields were shepherds looking after their sheep. Some were dozing, some chatting, when suddenly a great light filled the sky and they heard the sounds of voices singing praises to God and saying that the Saviour is born.

Reader: Luke 2 v 8-14





Hark the Herald v 1 and 3
(angels process)

Narrator: The shepherds rushed off to see the baby and found Jesus lying in the manger just as the angel had said.

Reader: Luke 2 v 15-18

Infant Holy

Narrator: Hundreds of miles away three wise men were studying the stars. A special star had appeared showing that a king had been born.

They set off to see the new king bringing special gifts. We hear the story from Matthew's gospel.

Reader: Matthew 2 v 9-11

As with gladness v 1, 2, 3
(send up the Kings one at a time one with each verse)

Leader: As we listen to some words from St John's gospel the last candle in the wreath will be lit.

Reader: John 1 v 4, 5, 9 (light the white candle)

O little town of Bethlehem.
Blessing of the baby
Christmas prayers

Away in a manger
Blessing

