

SAMPLE

Christmas Jubilee

A Children's Christmas Service

by Terry K. Dittmer

Permission is given to print all congregational responses and readings in your worship bulletin. The melody and text of the refrain for “Jubilee!” and the texts of the hymns “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”; “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”; “O Come, All Ye Faithful”; “What Child Is This”; “Glory Be to God on High”; “O Little Town of Bethlehem”; “Away in a Manger”; “Angels We Have Heard on High”; “Silent Night, Holy Night”; and “Joy to the World” may be printed in your worship bulletin. No other words or music may be copied or printed without the permission of the copyright holder. You may substitute hymns and songs as desired, but are responsible for obtaining copyright permission from the copyright holders.

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Edited by Gail Pawlitz

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Christmas Jubilee

A Children's Christmas Service

The Prelude

The Processional Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(For alternate lyrics, use *LSB* 380)

The Congregation

The Invocation

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

All: Amen.

Responsive Reading

An Arrangement of Psalm 146 and Isaiah 61:1–3

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

All: Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Side 1: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

Side 2: I will sing praises to my God as long as I have my being.

Women: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

Men: Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

Side 1: Who made heaven and earth,

Side 2: The sea, and all that is in them,

Pastor: Who keeps faith forever.

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of

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gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

All: The LORD sets the prisoners free;

Side 1: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

Side 2: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

All: The LORD loves the righteous.

Men: The LORD watches over the sojourners;

Women: He upholds the widow and the fatherless,

All: But the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

Pastor: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

The Hymn

The Congregation and Children

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

The Prayer for the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, You have made Yourself known in Your Son, Jesus, Redeemer of the world. We give thanks for His birth as our Savior, for He sets us free from the slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

A congregational hymn or children's choir song may be inserted here.

The Christmas Meditation

The pastor may offer a brief reflection on the redemption and freedom from sin, death, and the devil that Jesus secured for us.

The Offering

The Message Presented by the Children

I. An Invitation

Speaker 1: Now Christmas time has come again,
We join tonight
This annual rite.

Speaker 2: The shepherds said, “Let us now go
To Bethlehem
To worship Him.”

Speaker 3: The pilgrimage we join anew;
The manger place
Is home to grace.

Speaker 4: We want to us see this baby born,
This little boy,
His mother’s joy.

Speaker 5: Let us remember who He is,
This little child,
So small, so mild.

Speaker 6: With Mary, ponder in our hearts
What He would do
For me and you.

Speaker 7: We pause, reflect, and give thanks for
His sacrifice—
Redemption’s price.

Speaker 8: We come to sing and join the praise;
This little lad
Makes hearts so glad.

Speaker 9: This night we come to spend some time
In company,
In jubilee.

The Hymn

The Congregation and Children

O Come, All Ye Faithful (*LSB 379*)

II. What Child Is This?

Speaker 10: What child is this we come to see,
This child adored on bended knee?

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Who is this child of jubilee,
This child who comes to set us free?

Speaker 11: This child is Jesus, God's own Son.
He is the Lord, God's Chosen One.
The Savior, who our freedom won;
In His own life, our life begun.

Speaker 12: The angels sang His praise on high—
This Son of God was born to die.
On Easter morn, from death He'll rise;
He is His Father's love surprise.

Speaker 13: He is God's promise, coming true;
He is the hope for me and you.
He is Messiah, comfort too,
As our Redeemer, love renews.

Speaker 14: We come to worship Christ the King,
For He is Lord of everything.
We come, His promise savoring.
We come to praise; we come to sing.

The Hymn

The Congregation and Children

What Child Is This (*LSB 370*)

III. The Question: Freedom?

Speaker 15: Jesus, our Savior, from sin sets us free.
But what is this freedom? Yes, what can it be?

Speaker 16: For freedom, God made us; from bondage set free.
But freedom from what? And what freely to be?

Speaker 17: A great celebration, about being free?
What is this great freedom, this Yule jubilee?

IV. The Answer: Freedom Is . . .

Speaker 18: We're freed to be people of God who believe
That God gives a gift that believers receive.

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Speaker 19: It's freedom from death, from the devil, from sin;
And freedom with Jesus as King and as friend.

Speaker 20: We're freed to face problems and deal with life's strife;
We're free to confront all the stressors of life.

Speaker 21: We know freedom in sorrow and freedom in tears.
We are free to live freely, despite threats and fears.

Speaker 22: We're free from our questions and free from our doubt;
For trust, hope, and truth are what freedom's about.

Speaker 23: Free to be Christian and free to confess.
Free to say "Jesus," to know we are blessed.

Speaker 24: Freed and courageous, and freed to be strong;
Freed to sing praises in hymns and in song.

Speaker 25: Freedom is knowledge of God's gracious plan
To save from their sin every woman and man.

Speaker 26: We're freed to shout glory to God up above;
We're freed to speak truth and we're freed to show love.

Speaker 27: We're freed and forgiven, again and again.
We're freed from ourselves; we serve God and man.

Speaker 28: Freedom is Jesus; in Christ we are free.
We're freed by God's Spirit, His people to be.

The Song

The Children

Glory Be to God on High

V. The Christmas Gospel (Luke 2:1–15)

Service leader: If desired, children costumed as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and angels may come forward to pantomime the action and create a manger scene during the reading of the Gospel.

Pastor: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Speaker 29: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

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Children: And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Pastor: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with a great fear.

Speaker 30: And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Speaker 31: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Pastor: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

All: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.”

Speaker 32: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

The Hymn

The Children

O Little Town of Bethlehem (*LSB 361*)

Conclusion of the Christmas Gospel (Luke 2:16–20)

Pastor: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, lying in the manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning the child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Speaker 33: But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

VI. Angels Tell—Christ Has Come!

The Song

The Children

Away in a Manger

Recitation by Young Children

1. Angels said up in the sky,
“Glory be to God on high.”
Christ is born in Bethlehem,
Let us go and worship Him.
2. Christ has come to set us free.
Join our Christmas Jubilee.
God is good and God is great.
Join the fun and celebrate!

VII. J-U-B-I-L-E-E!

Children hold stars, alleluia banners, streamers, tissue-paper flowers and balloons behind their backs, or leave them resting where they can't be seen. As the chorus is repeated, groups of children gather around the manger, holding their festive decorations as indicated.

Chorus *(By children)*

J-U-B-I-L-E-E,
Join the congregation.
Now it's time, in Jesus Christ,
For freedom's celebration!

Speaker 34: Now it's time for jubilee—
It's time for decorating
With symbols for this festival,
For Christmas celebrating.

Chorus

Speaker 35: Stars that sparkle, stars so fair,
Fill the skies with heavenly light.
Like the Christ, the Morning Star,
Give us hope through darkest night.

Chorus. *(Children with stars gather around the manger.)*

Speaker 36: Alleluia banners raise,
In the heavens waving.
Decorate with joy unfurled
For God, His people saving.

Chorus. *(Children with Alleluia banners gather around the manger.)*

Speaker 37: Happy streamers fill the sky,
Wonderfully dancing.
What delightful joy they show
With their breezy prancing.

Chorus. *(Children with streamers gather around the manger.)*

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Speaker 38: Flowers bright and beautiful,
Every hue, and fragrant;
Fill the scene with loveliness,
Colorful and brilliant.

Chorus. *(Children with flowers gather around the manger.)*

Speaker 39: Hold a bunch of bright balloons;
Stretch a smile across your face.
Celebrate the love of God;
Celebrate His perfect grace!

Chorus. *(Children with balloons gather around the manger.)*

The Hymn

The Congregation and Children

Angels We Have Heard on High (LSB 368)

VIII. Sing Praise to the Lord!

Speaker 40: Lift your voices, let them ring!
Scripture, songs, and hymns now sing.
God is God of everything!

Children: Sing praise to the Lord!

Speaker 41: Praise the Lord! Now, praise His name!
All the world His praise exclaim;
Shout His praises and proclaim:

Children: Sing praise to the Lord!

Speaker 42: Sound the trumpet, blow the horn,
On this joyous Christmas morn—
Now's no time to act forlorn!

Children: Sing praise to the Lord!

Speaker 43: With your hearts and minds prepared
For the Savior, pure and fair,
In this child, God's love is shared!

Children: Sing praise to the Lord!

Speaker 44: You can praise God with kazoos—
What a way to share Good News!
Chase away your dreary blues!

Children: Sing praise to the Lord!

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Speaker 45: Sound the cymbals! Beat the drum!

Let your noisy praises come.
Can't sing solo? You can hum!

Children: Sing praise to the Lord!

Speaker 46: Snap your fingers! Clap your hands!

Send your praise across the land.
Sing out, lady! Sing out, man!

Children: Sing praise to the Lord!

Speaker 47: All creation, all the earth,

Join the festive, merry mirth,
Praising God for all He's worth.

The Song

The Congregation and Children

Jubilee!

Children sing the refrain and first stanza. The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain each time it is repeated.

1. Hear the trumpets blaring,
God's great love declaring,
His forgiveness sharing, Jubilee!
Hear the trumpets blaring,
Hear the trumpets blaring, Jubilee! *Refrain*
2. Hear, the drums are pounding,
God's great name resounding,
Festive joy abounding, Jubilee!
Hear, the drums are pounding,
Hear, the drums are pounding, Jubilee! *Refrain*
3. Tambourines are ringing,
People's voices singing,
Great excitement tingling, Jubilee!
Tambourines are ringing,
Tambourines are ringing, Jubilee! *Refrain*
4. Lutes, guitar, and cello,
Praise to God they bellow,
Praise both loud and mellow, Jubilee!
Lutes, guitar, and cello,
Lutes, guitar, and cello, Jubilee! *Refrain*

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5. Cymbals clashing loud—Hey!
Earth and sky are proud—Hey!
Join the happy crowd. Say “Jubilee!”
Cymbals clashing loud—Hey!
Cymbals clashing loud—Hey! Jubilee! *Refrain*
- God has redeemed—Jubilee!

Sample includes a portion of the program only.