



TEACHER SCORE

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ABOUT THIS WORSHIP SERVICE

Lights add to the enjoyment of the Christmas holidays. We light special Christmas candles, we string hundreds of tiny lights on our Christmas trees, and we spend hours risking life and limb to line our rooftops with sparkling lights. Light is an important part of our Christmas celebration.

Our service is based on John 1:9, "*The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*" *Arise, Shine* focuses on five special areas where light plays an important part in the Bible and in our lives today.

Part 1: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Part 2: A LIGHT IN THE STABLE

Part 3: A LIGHT OVER THE FIELDS

Part 4: A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES

Part 5: A LIGHT FOR THE WORLD

AGE LEVEL/SIZE OF GROUP

Feel free to add or subtract parts or songs as you desire. This service has been designed to be easily presented by both large and small day schools and Sunday schools. For extra small groups of less than 20, we recommend using an adult or the congregation to assist in some recitations. There are also certain sections marked with an (*) which may be deleted without interrupting the flow of the service.

SPOKEN PARTS

Speaking and recitation parts are clearly marked. Feel free to make adjustments to fit your group. RECITATION sections are devoted to Scripture recitations.

SONGS

The theme song, *Arise Shine*, is sung at the opening of each new part. All children's songs are on a sing along/accompaniment CD. You can purchase additional children's Christmas songs on our web site.

THE CANDLES

As a visual aid for this service have five candles in front center of the congregation. These may be in separate candle stands or in a yule log. Be certain children are careful when lighting them.

BANNER

A banner pattern is provided for this service.



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ARISE, SHINE

"The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world." John 1:9

Note: Those parts marked with an (*) indicate areas that may be deleted.

Processional by Congregation: *"The King Shall Come"*

Invocation / Responsive Reading:

P: Arise, shine in splendor, let night to day surrender; the Light is drawing near.

All: Above the day is beaming, in matchless beauty gleaming; the glory of the Lord is here!

P: See earth in darkness lying, as heathen nations dying, cling to the dark of night.

Women: And yet the Lord of heaven, his hope of light has given with glory, honor and delight.

P: The world's remotest races upon whose weary faces the sun looks from the sky.

Men: We see their faces weeping as we the light are keeping the light that's from the Lord on high.

P: Let us tonight be driven to see the light here given within the stable low.

All: That all may see the glory that shines within this story and beams to all the world below.

Christmas Prayer

Lord God, our heavenly Father, who so loved our world that you sent your one and only Son to be its Savior, we pray that you would send the light of the Holy Spirit into our hearts that we gladly accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Redeemer. Lead us to rejoice in the light of the good news of great joy. And then, like shepherds, tell others about this Child and the light he brings to a world darkened by sin. Finally, when our time on this earth is ended, bring us all to the light of your heaven where we can join the angels in singing, "Glory to God in the highest!" Lord, let your light shine in us and through us always. Amen.

(All children stand)

Upper grades: Light!

Middle grades: Light!

Lower grades: Light!

Adult narrator: What would Christmas be like without light?

All students: It wouldn't be much fun, that's for sure!

Adult narrator: Light has much to do with making our Christmas celebration enjoyable. (To children) Where do we see special lights at Christmas time?

Lower grades: We see lights on our Christmas tree!

Middle grades: We see lights on the candles we burn!

Upper grades: We see lights on houses as we drive down the street!

Adult narrator: (To congregation) Today we will consider Christmas light. But we're not going to spend time with plastic bulbs or electric lights. We're going to open the pages of God's Word and let out the light of the Good News that Jesus was born. We're going to turn on the light in the Bethlehem stable and let it shine out into the world. As we focus on five different types of God's Christmas lights, we will light the flames on our special candle. These candle flames reflect the true light of Christmas that brightens our hearts. We feel the warmth of God's light as we tell you the theme for our worship from John 1:9.

All children: "The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world."

Part 1: A Light in the Darkness

(Light candle #1)

All children sing: Arise! Arise! Arise in the night.
Hold out a candle of hope for the world.
Shine! Shine! Shine with the light
That began in the manger of Bethlehem.

Light the first flame for the darkness of old
That covered the world with its sin.
Light it to say that a new story's told,
As we see God's love now shine in.
(Repeat first verse)

Upper grades: We're going to begin our study of light by opening the first pages of the Bible. Many years ago God decided to create the world. He wanted to make a world that would be beautiful and would delight the crown of his creation—people. He wanted to make a world that would be green and colorful and that would have interesting animals and delicious food. But before God would make all these blessings, he needed one very important thing. The first words we hear God speak tell us what that was:

Recitation: "And God said, 'Let there be light.'" (Genesis 1:3)

Upper grades: Light was important to God. With it, people could see everything around them and enjoy the beautiful things God made. God wanted his light to shine on his pure and perfect creation.

Recitation: "God is light. In him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5)

Upper grades: Sadly however, it wasn't too long before the darkness of sin took away this purity. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and quickly looked for a dark place to hide because they

were ashamed of what they had done. They quickly learned that sin can turn the brightness of day into the blackness of night.

Recitation: “See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over all the peoples.” (Isaiah 60:2)

Song by Congregation: “*The People That in Darkness Sat*” stanzas 1,2,5

Upper grades: Although the darkness of sin had shut out the light of God's beautiful creation, God struck a spark of light and hope in the hearts of Adam and Eve. He promised to send a special light into the world that would put away the darkness of sin and shine on his people everywhere.

***Recitation:** “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Song (Lower Grades)

Christmas Candles

Christmas candles gleaming bright for the newborn King.
Send a welcome through the night while the angels sing.
Shining bright thro’ the night while the angels sing.
Christmas candles gleaming bright welcoming the King.

Christmas candles gleaming bright sending beams afar;
We would shine with radiant light like His Christmas star.
Shining bright thro’ the night while the angels sing.
Christmas candles gleaming bright welcoming the King.

Christmas candles gleaming bright we would bring good cheer;
Make the blessed Christmas light shine thro’ all the year.
Shining bright thro’ the night while the angels sing.
Christmas candles gleaming bright welcoming the King.

Part 2: A Light in the Stable (Parts 2 and 3 have been deleted in this sample)

Part 4: A Light for the Gentiles

(Light candle #4)

All children sing:

Arise! Arise! Arise in the night.
Hold out a candle of hope for the world.
Shine! Shine! Shine with the light
That began in the manger of Bethlehem.
Light now the flame for the Bethlehem star
That mapped for the wise men a way.
Light it for guiding their path from afar
To the place where the Lord Jesus lay.
(Repeat first verse)

Middle grades: God had more plans for his light display. The light that began in Genesis, continued in the stable, and filled the sky above the fields of Bethlehem. But God would place another light in the sky a short time later.

This time God used an ordinary light in an extraordinary way. He decided to place a special star in the sky that it might lead some very important men to the house where Mary and Joseph and Jesus were staying. That star must have been so special that it caused these men to pack up their treasures and follow it.

Recitation: “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’

“When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they replied, ‘for this is what the prophet has written: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be shepherd of my people Israel.’

“Then Herod called the magi secretly to find out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’

“After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.” (Matthew 2:1,2)

Song (Middle Grades)

There’s a Song in the Air

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy! O'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!
In the light of that star lie the ages imperaled;
And that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in his cradle our Savior the King!

Middle grades: We dare not take this light too “lightly”, for it blazed the way for even those who were not the children of the Old Testament promise. We take great comfort in knowing these Wise Men were Gentiles and not Jews. This is significant because now we can clearly see that the Savior came for all people. That includes us!

Recitation: “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Part 5: Light for the World

(Light candle #5)

All children sing: Arise! Arise! Arise in the night.
Hold out a candle of hope for the world.
Shine! Shine! Shine with the light
That began in the manger of Bethlehem.

Light the last candle to brighten the earth;
The light of the world now has come.
Light it to tell of our dear Savior's birth;
Yes, light it now for everyone!
(Repeat first verse)

Lower grades: Light! Light! Light! Have we seen all there is to the bright light of God? Not quite yet! The light of Jesus is now ready for us to shine around the world.

Recitation: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 13:47)

Lower grades: When Jesus said he was the light of the world, he meant that by believing in his death and resurrection, we would enjoy the light he brings.

Recitation: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

***Lower grades:** That light still shines in heaven today.

***Recitation:** “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it. For the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.” (Revelation 21:23)

All children: Now we have seen the light that God gave to us. It’s a light that shows the way to heaven. We are the keepers of this light and we want to let it shine for everyone to see.

All children: “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine!” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Song (Upper Grades)

Will You Love the Baby Too?

Do you see the stable there? Joy and laughter fill the air.
Can you see the mother dear, and the father standing near?
Will you love the Baby too?
Would you listen to his cry, wipe the teardrop from his eye?
Why should he decide to go out of love to earth below?
Will you love the Baby too?
Will you give him all your cares, doubts and worries, hopes and prayers?
Will you hear the Master's call, giving him your life, your all?
Will you love the Baby too?

Will you speak to him today while you work or while you play?
Can you tell him everything? Does your heart rejoice and sing?
Will you love the Baby too?
Would you ever promise him you'll go to this world of sin,
And you'll tell them, everyone, of the victory he's won?
Will you love the Baby too?
Will you give him all your cares, doubts and worries, hopes and prayers?
Will you hear the Master's call, giving him your life, your all?
Will you love the Baby too?

Offering / Prayers / Lord's Prayer / Benediction

Recessional by Congregation: “*This Night a Wondrous Revelation*”
(Sung to the tune of “*Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices*” - Koning melody)

This night a wondrous revelation makes known to me God's love and grace;
The Child that merits adoration brings light to our benighted race;
And though a thousand suns did shine, still brighter is that Light divine.

This Sun of Grace for me is beaming; rejoice, my soul, in Jesus' birth!
The light from yonder manger streaming sends forth its rays o'er all the earth.
It drives the night of sin away and turns our darkness into day.

This light, which all God's gloom can banish, the bliss of heaven glorifies;
When sun and moon and stars shall vanish, its rays shall still illumine the skies.
This light thro' all eternity Thy heav'n and all to thee shall be.

O Jesus, precious Sun of gladness, fill up my soul with light, I pray.
Dispel the gloomy night of sadness and teach Thou me this Christmas Day
How I a child of light may be, aglow with light that come from Thee.