

TEACHER SCORE

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ABOUT THIS WORSHIP SERVICE

What's in a name? Today many children are named by parents who simply like the sound of a name, or because the name is popular. In Bible times, names were chosen because of their meaning. Such was the case with Jesus. He is known in the Bible by over 40 names, each telling a different part of the story of his love and work for us. In this Christmas worship service, we will take a close look at several of those names as we discover the significance they played in our salvation. We will close the service with his given name: JESUS.

The service is built around five parts depicted by five banners.

Part 1: WAITING FOR JESUS Immanuel / Messiah / Branch

Part 2: JESUS, A SON Son of God / Son of David / Son of the Most high

Part 3: THE BIRTH OF JESUS Word / Lamb / Prince of Peace

Part 4: THE MISSION OF JESUS Savior / Shepherd / Redeemer

Part 5: THE PROMISES OF JESUS Alpha and Omega / Lord of All / King / JESUS

NARRATION

This service includes parts written for one or several narrators. Feel free to give the part to one child, several children, or even a teen or adult.

RECITATIONS

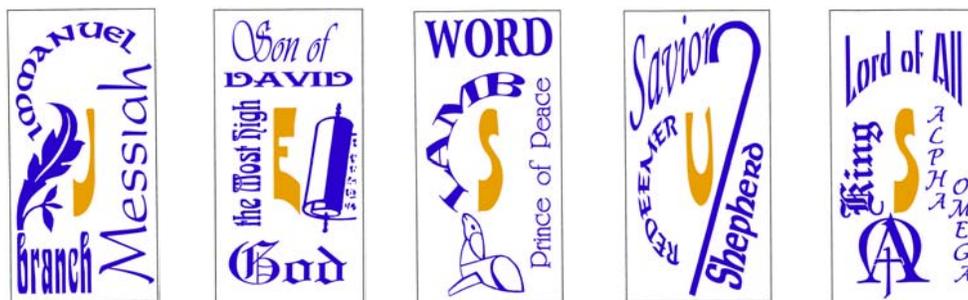
The parts labeled RECITATION are Scripture passages to be recited by individuals or classes. Note that a (*) designates parts that may be omitted without detracting for the structure of the service.

SONGS

Four songs are included for the children which are on the accompaniment CD with sheet music in the back of the Teacher Score. There are many congregation carols to be sung throughout with stanzas to be sung notated.

BANNERS

The five chancel banners are mentioned throughout the service. Only the large letters J-E-S-U-S are to be added at the very end of the service. Templates for the banners are included in the Teacher Score file.



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His Name Is Jesus!

Note: Parts with an (*) may be deleted for small schools or Sunday Schools. Also, begin the service with the banners already displayed in the front of church. As each banner is highlighted, you may wish to slide it forward so that it stands out from the rest.

Processional: *“O Come, Little Children”*

Invocation: (Pastor)

Responsive Reading:

Pastor: Jesus! Name of wondrous love, name all other names above,
Unto which must every knee bow in deep humility.

Ladies: *Jesus! Name decreed of old, to the maiden mother told-
Kneeling in her lowly cell - by the angel Gabriel.*

Pastor: Jesus! Name of priceless worth to the fallen here on earth
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus, shall his people save."

Men: *Jesus! Only name that's giv'n under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby all, to sin enslaved, burst their fetters and are saved.*

Children: *Jesus! Name of love divine, who would be a friend of mine,
Now tonight my story hear of the one who loves me dear!*

All: *Jesus! Name of wondrous love, human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we, too, flee, O God, in faith to you.*

Prayer: Gracious and loving Lord God, who cared for us by sending a Savior to redeem us from the curse of sin, we lift our hearts and voices to you in adoration and praise. Thank you for the many names of Jesus that teach us of the saving work and loving nature of our Savior and Friend. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: I imagine that everyone here shares some things in common. For instance, we all have eyes, hearts and mouths. These are all things we were born with. In fact we all had them months *before* we were born.

There is something we all have in common that was given to us right after we were born and everyone still has it today. Can you think of what it was? It's our name! When each of us was born, our parents took loving thought in giving us a name that would be just the right one. From out of thousands of names, they selected one that would stay with us for the rest of our lives.

In the Bible we notice that some people had names that sound very common to us today like Daniel, or Ruth, or Mark, while others had names that sound very unusual to us. There were ladies named Gomer, Cozbi and Oholibamah, and there were men named Hashabiah, Maher-shalal-hashbaz and Tychicus. These names sound strange to us, but to those who lived at that time, they were far more customary.

Many people choose names because of their meaning. Did you know that the name David means “one who is beloved,” and Abigail means “cause of joy”?

Today we will go back in time as we walk through the streets of a little town called Bethlehem (which, by the way, means “House of Bread”), until we find a stable where a young lady has just given birth to a baby boy. And as we quietly step into that stable, we will peek at the tiny baby and see him all wrapped up in strips of clean cloth. Then we will slowly look up at the mother, and ask a very revealing question: What is his name?

Song

His Name Is Jesus

(Entire school and congregation or choir)

Congregation verses are sung to the melody of "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

1. (Congregation)

Dear Mary sweet, dear Mary mild
The manger holds your little child.
Dear Mary sweet, dear Mary mild
The manger holds your little child.
Tell, tell us who is that baby boy?
Tell, tell us of your wonderful joy.

Refrain (Children)

His name is Jesus!
Gift of God's love
The Son who frees us,
Hope from above.

His name is Jesus!
Born one so small,
Light that still sees us;
Savior of all.

2. (Congregation)

The angels singing with delight
Of peace, good will to all this night.
The angels singing with delight
Of peace, good will to all this night.
Tell, tell us who is that baby boy?
Tell, tell us of your wonderful joy.

Refrain (Children)

Narrator: Did you hear that? His name is Jesus! Tonight we're going to take a close look at the names of Jesus. In fact, we're going to look at many names that either were given to Jesus or represented Him. There were names given him by the angels, names that told of his work, names that showed his love for us, names that proved he was God, names of strength and names of

humility, names of his office and names of his glory. Someone once counted about 40 names mentioned in the Bible that speak of Jesus. If anyone deserved many names, it was this very special baby who came to be our Lord and Savior.

Part One: Waiting for Jesus

(Banner one)

Recitation: (Younger children or all school)

At first we see this banner tall
And there are names we know
They mean that Jesus came for all
Because he loves us so.

Immanuel

***Recitation:** Matthew 1:22 and 23 tells us, “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ - which means, ‘God with us.’”

Narrator: The first name we see on our banner is **Immanuel**. This name was given hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. It was spoken by Isaiah in his prophecy about Jesus being born of the Virgin Mary. And just as the Scripture says, it means ‘God with Us’. Listen carefully to what Isaiah wrote:

Recitation: Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Song by Congregation: “*O Come, O Come Immanuel*” Stanza 1

Messiah (This name may be omitted from the banner for smaller schools)

***Recitation:** John 1:41 “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ).”

***Narrator:** The second name we see on our first banner is **Messiah**. The name Messiah means “the anointed one.” In Old Testament times the kings and prophets were anointed by pouring oil on their heads to prepare them for their office. In Greek, the word for anointed is *Christos*. We know it better as *Christ*. It’s interesting to know that although the Old Testament people waited for the coming of the Messiah, the word “Messiah” is never mentioned in the Old Testament.

***Song by Congregation:** “*Angels from the Realms of Glory*” Stanza 1

Branch

***Recitation:** Isaiah 11:1 “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.”

Narrator: The third name on our banner is also from the Old Testament. Those people waited thousands of years for the Savior to be born. During this time they gave the coming Messiah

many different names. One of the most unique names is mentioned in Jeremiah 23.

Recitation: Jeremiah 23:5 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch. . . This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.”

Narrator: Jeremiah is speaking about growing a tree. He tells us that out of the root of King David (Jesus’ ancestor) a long awaited branch would grow. That **branch** would be Jesus.

Song by Congregation: “*Behold a Branch Is Growing*” Stanzas 1 and 2

Part Two: Jesus, a Son

(Banner two)

Recitation: (Younger children or all school)

On banner two a name we see,
Repeated more than once.
It tells us of God’s family,
With Jesus as his Son.

Son of God

***Recitation:** Luke 3:22 “And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’”

Narrator: When Gabriel was speaking to Mary, he gave Jesus another name which we hear several times in the New Testament. It is certainly fitting to call Jesus the **Son of God**, for we know that although Mary was his mother, God the Father was his true Father. That makes him rightfully God’s only Son. Listen to what the angel Gabriel told Mary about the baby she would have.

Recitation: Luke 1:35 “The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’”

Song: (Middle Grades)

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow, snow, on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav’n can’t hold him nor earth sustain
Heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed,

The Lord Almighty, Jesus the Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him – give him my heart.

Son of David (This name may be omitted from banner for smaller schools)

***Recitation:** Matthew 1:1 “A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the Son of David.”

***Narrator:** In the very first verse of the New Testament we see Jesus given the name **Son of David**, which shows us that Jesus was of the family of David. It was correct to call him by such a name, since David was Jesus' direct ancestor 28 generations earlier. When you read the first chapter of Matthew you can find the entire list of names all the way from Abraham right up to Jesus.

Son of the Most High

Recitation: Luke 1:32: “He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.”

Narrator: Here in the first chapter of Luke we see another mention of Jesus as a Son, only this time he's called the **Son of the Most High**. In other words, Jesus is truly the Son of God. That makes Jesus true God as well as true man.

Song by Congregation: “*Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men*” Stanza 1

Part Three: The Birth of Jesus

(Banner three)

Recitation: (Younger children or all school)

The third banner shows us all
A manger made of hay.
And there within, a baby small,
Was born on Christmas Day.

Narrator: Let's go back now to that night so long ago as we hear the beautiful story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

Recitation: Luke 2:1-7 “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped

him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Song by Congregation: “*Silent Night*”

Word

***Recitation:** Revelation 19:13 says “He is dressed in a robe dripped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.”

Narrator: The first name on our third banner seems to be a strange name for anyone. When John began to write in his book about Jesus, he started by calling Jesus simply **Word**. Would you want to be called “Word”? Why was Jesus called that name? To find that answer we must first go all the way back to the creation story in Genesis. When we look carefully at the story, we find that every time God wished to create something he said some words like, “let there be light.” John just wants to let us know that Jesus was there at the creation. He was the words. Listen how John writes about the Word in chapter one of his Gospel.

Recitation: John 1:1,14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

Song by Congregation: “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”

Lamb

Recitation: Revelation 5:6 “Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne.”

Narrator: Did you know that Jesus is also called a Lamb? He got that name because lambs were often used for sacrifice in Old Testament times. A sacrificial lamb was a symbol that the sins of the people were forgiven because they were laid on the shoulders of the lamb. Does that sound like Jesus too? He died once and the sins of each of us were laid on his shoulders. Look at what Jesus’ cousin, John, called him one day as he saw Jesus coming toward him. . .

Recitation: John 1:29 “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Song: (Lower Grades)

“*Children’s Song of the Nativity*”

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little Child, is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there, ox and cow and sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus sleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we’ve come so far just for His sake?

Great kings have precious gifts and we have naught,
Little smiles and little tears are all we've brought.
For all weary children, Mary must weep.
Here on His bed of straw sleep, children, sleep.

God in His mother's arms, babes in the byre*.
Sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

* *A byre is a cowshed.*

Prince of Peace *(This name may be omitted from the banner for smaller schools)*

***Recitation:** Isaiah 9:6 "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."

***Narrator:** The last of the names on our third banner is also from the Old Testament. Jesus once said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." What a beautiful thought spoken by the one who is known as the **Prince of Peace**.

***Song by Congregation:** "*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*" Stanza 3

Part Four: The Mission of Jesus

(Banner four)

(Part 4 has been removed in this sample)

Part Five: The Promises of Jesus

(Banner five)

Recitation: (Younger children or all children)

The fifth and final banner shows
Us all the hope we find.
'Cause joy in Jesus always grows
Beyond each Christmas time.

Alpha & Omega

***Recitation:** Revelation 1:8: "'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'"

Narrator: At first we might be tempted to ask what this last banner has to do with Christmas. After all, isn't this a celebration of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem? Isn't it just supposed to be about Mary and Joseph and shepherds and angels?

Yes, indeed it is about them. But they too were very thankful that Jesus wasn't born for just one night of celebration. Mary and Joseph and the shepherds saw the wonder of their first meeting with the baby Jesus, but it was because of who Jesus was that they stood there in amazement. They saw before them a future of hope and joy and heaven and life everlasting. That baby in the manger was never intended to remain a baby forever. He was to be a Savior, a King, and a Lord, because he was God.

The **Alpha and Omega** are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. It's as if we would say the "A" and "Z". Jesus is the A and Z, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He was the first before the creation of this universe, and he will be last to the very edges of an endless eternity.

Recitation: Revelation 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Song by Congregation: "*Of the Father's Love Begotten*" Stanza 1

Lord of All (This name may be omitted from the banner for smaller schools)

***Narrator:** The second group of words we see on our final banner is **Lord of All**. In Jesus' day it was not unusual to call someone "lord". Wealthy people, landowners, and those in high places were often called lord. But with Jesus it was different. When the Bible spoke of Jesus, it wasn't just referring to any lord who happened to be important at that time. Rather, it was referring to the Lord Jesus, a person of the Godhead. That's why we often find terms such as Lord of Lords and Lord of Glory and Lord of All.

***Song by Congregation:** "*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*" Stanza 3

King

Recitation: Matthew 2:1,2: "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.'"

Narrator: What was it that the Wise Men were searching for? Why did they travel to the capitol city of Jerusalem? Why did they go directly to King Herod in hope of getting information? It was because they were looking for a king. And indeed they were right, for in that manger of Bethlehem, among the sheep and cows, the dust and dirt, bedded down in a used feed box and wrapped in strips of cloth lay not only a baby boy but the King of the universe. Jesus is a **King** indeed! His kingdom is far greater than any earthly king could ever hope to command. He rules on the throne in heaven, and his loyal subjects do indeed bow down to him and worship him as their glorious King. What a joy to remember the coming of this King each Christmas. That's the thrill we feel when we bow before his manger bed and worship our newborn King.

All: Zechariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation."

Song by Congregation: “Joy to the World” Stanza 1

Offering/Prayers/Lord's Prayer/Benediction

Pastor: Each of the names for Jesus make us reflect on the work and life of our Savior, but didn't you children forget one very important name? What did the angel Gabriel tell Mary about the naming of her baby?

Recitation by All Children: Matthew 1:21 “You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

(The letters J-E-S-U-S are now attached to the center of each banner.)

Pastor: No name is dearer to the hearts of God's children than *Jesus*. The first song many of us ever learned to sing was “*Jesus Loves Me*”. Jesus is the New Testament name for Joshua which means Savior. It was given by the angel Gabriel to Mary before Jesus was ever born. Let us all join together in telling how Mary and Joseph obeyed Gabriel's command in Luke 2:21.

Congregation and Children: “On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.”

All Children: (Recessional to be sung *immediately* after Luke 2:21 is spoken)

His Name Is Jesus

His name is Jesus!

Gift of God's love.

The Son who frees us,

Hope from above.

His name is Jesus!

Born one so small,

Light that still sees us;

Savior of all!

(If using accompaniment CD, the entire instrumental version of “His Name Is Jesus” follows the children's refrain. Let the music continue to play as the congregation is ushered out.)