



A

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Teacher Score

A Christmas Prayer

“This is how you should pray.” Matthew 6:9

Christmas is a time of prayer. We read of Zachariah and Mary’s prayers, and certainly Joseph and the shepherds likewise offered their prayers to God for the marvel they had witnessed. No doubt the most well-known of all the prayers in the Bible was the prayer that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount – the Lord’s Prayer. The wonder of the Lord’s Prayer is that it can fit any situation in life. This children’s Christmas worship service is based on that prayer.

THE NARRATION

There are parts included for two narrators. Feel free to use any number of children for these parts.

RECITATIONS

Recitation sections always include Bible verses that reinforce the narrator’s point.

BANNER

Artwork and instructions have been provided to make a full size church banner.

WORSHIP BULLETIN

Although a preprinted worship bulletin for this service is not available, this file includes the artwork so you might print your own service folder covers.

ABOUT THE SONGS

This program includes the sheet music for the children’s and adult songs. We have produced NO music disk. The enclosed carol files are from a public domain source. Consequently lyrics will not always match the Kremer program and some sheet music may be free of lyrics completely. The song for Lower Grades may be done with bells as per the music file.

HOWEVER, we do offer great alternatives.

1. **60 KREMER SONGS TO PICK FROM** If you would like to explore alternative kids’ songs, Kremer Resources is making available 60 Christmas songs (mostly original) from past children’s Christmas services. Visit the Kremer website at www.kremerresources.com and click through to CHRISTMAS & WORSHIP SERVICES > 23 CHRISTMAS SERVICES > OTHER CHRISTMAS PRODUCTS > SHEET MUSIC AND MP3 dropdown. Each song comes with reproducible sheet music, singer and accompaniment MP3. Cost is \$9.99 per song.

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Menomonee Falls, WI

A Christmas Prayer

Congregation and Children: GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING! (To the melody of “Savior of the Nations, Come.”)

*Glory to the newborn King!
Let the bells this Christmas ring.
Peal them loud to God above
For his precious gift of love.*

*With our eyes a baby see
Very much like you and me,
Yet in him true God appears
Who will reign for endless years.*

*During his earthly ministry
On the Mount in Galilee;
Jesus taught the words to say
When we fold our hands to pray.*

*Thank you, Lord, for thoughts to share
When we bow our heads in prayer.
May their tones forever ring;
Praises to our newborn King!*

*Now upon his throne on high,
Ruling o’er his kingdom nigh,
We with bended knee adore
Jesus Christ forevermore.*

Invocation: Pastor

Welcome: Christmas is a time of prayer. For generations throughout the Old Testament, God’s people prayed for the Messiah to rescue them. At the time of Jesus’ birth we see the prayers of Zechariah and Mary. And today we still offer our prayers of thanks to our loving God whose mercy has given us new life through the Baby in the Bethlehem manger. Today we join in worship as we visit that Bethlehem scene through the words of the prayer Jesus himself taught us, the Lord’s Prayer.

P: May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

C: *The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.*

P: Give ear to me and hear my prayer.

C: *Show the wonder of your great love.*

P: The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

C: *May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.*

P: The LORD is near to all who call on him,

C: *To all who call on him in truth.*

P: Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

C: *Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

Song Children (Lower Grades – may be done with bells as per file): LITTLE BABY IN A MANGER

Little Baby in the manger, I love you,
Lying there, to earth a stranger, I love you;
Wise men saw the star and answered, "I love you,"
Shepherds heard the angels saying, "I love you."

Little Baby down from heaven, I love you,
By the Father to us given, I love you;
Star of hope for every nation, I love you,
Angels gave you adoration, I love you.

Little Baby meek and lowly, I love you,
Son of God so pure and holy, I love you;
Wonderful in grace and power, I love you,
Sharon's Rose, the sweetest flower, I love you.

PART 1

Our Father in Heaven

Narrator 1: We begin our journey of *A Christmas Prayer* with the introduction to the Lord's Prayer. Twice in the gospels we find the words to the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. Matthew 6 includes it as part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Among the many instructions he gave his listeners, one included the words to the Lord's Prayer. Jesus said, "This is how you should pray", and so he said:

All Children:

Group 1: Our Father in heaven,

Group 2: Hallowed be your name,

Group 3: Your kingdom come,

Group 4: Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Group 5: Give us today our daily bread.

Group 6: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Group 7: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

All: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Narrator 2: The Lord's Prayer opens with the words "Our Father in heaven." Right from the beginning we get the warm feeling that this prayer is spoken within a family where there is great love. Our God is not a distant god who lives somewhere far away from us. He is not a cold god who cares little for us. Rather he is our loving Father who knows each of us by name. And he is not only our Father, but he is also the Father of Jesus. We are blessed to be part of God's family where we can come to him as dear children come to their dear father.

Recitation: *"God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. . . You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be*

great and will be called the Son of the Most High. . . . The Holy Spirit will come on 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.” (Luke 1:26-28, 31,32,35)

Narrator 1: In the first few words, Jesus sets the tone of his prayer. God is our Father. We are his children. Jesus is our Brother. What a wonderful family to be a part of.

Song (Upper 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.*

PART 2

Hallowed Be Your Name

Narrator 2: Names. Each of us was given a name on the day we were born. At that moment we took on a certain identification. We were labeled with a name. Sometimes the names given to children have great meaning. When Jacob was born, he was the second of a set of twins. At birth he seemed to be holding onto his brother Esau’s heel, and so he was named Jacob, “heel grabber”.

Congregation: JESUS! NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE

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

*Jesus! Name of priceless worth to the fallen sons of earth,
For the promise that it gave—Jesus shall His people save.*

*Jesus! Name of mercy mild, given to the holy Child,
When the cup of human woe first He tasted here below.*

*Jesus! Only name that’s given under all the mighty heaven,
Whereby man, to sin enslaved, bursts his fetters, and is saved.*

*Jesus! Name of wondrous love, human name of God above!
Pleading only this, we flee, helpless, O our God, to Thee.*

Narrator 1: When we speak of God, we find that the Bible gives the Father, Son and Holy Spirit many different names. Each name tells us something different about the work they do. Someone has counted as many as 956 names for God. That’s a lot of names that tell about God.

Recitation: We hear the name Father in 2 Corinthians 6:18, *“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters.”*

Recitation: We hear of the Holy Spirit in 2 Corinthians 1:22, *“He put his Spirit in our hearts.”*

Recitation: And Jesus’ name was given him when the angel visited Joseph, *“You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sin.”*

PARTS 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Deleted from these sample pages)

PART 7

Lead Us Not into Temptation, but Deliver Us from the Evil One

Narrator 1: Paths. The Christmas account is filled with people traveling along different paths. Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The shepherds traveled from the hillside to the stable. The Wise Men traveled many miles to find their Savior. And Joseph took his family on a long trip to Egypt after Jesus was born.

Narrator 2: Everyone here today took a special path to arrive here. Some drove many miles while others just a short distance. And so it is with life. We are all traveling along different pathways. We begin the day we are born and we continue on that path until the day we die. For some, traveling the path takes a long time, for others it may be a short journey. Some may experience all sorts of problems along the way while others have an easier journey to make.

Narrator 1: As God’s children we are all looking for a special destination at the end of our journeys. That destination is heaven. As we travel through this life, we look forward to finally arriving at the home God has prepared for us. Unfortunately our travels meet many obstacles along the way. There are dangers and temptations, there are evils that try to make us take detours away from heaven.

Narrator 2: In this section of Jesus’ prayer, he tells us that it is God who leads us on this path. And our prayer is that as he leads us, he will keep us safe from the devil’s schemes. We are thankful that Jesus knows the way, and he has promised to be with us the entire journey.

Recitation: In John 14:2 Jesus told his disciples, *“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”*

Recitation: But Thomas was confused. He said, *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”*

Recitation: But Jesus answered Thomas, *“I am the way and the truth and the life.”*

Congregation: OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL

*Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

Offering

Prayers (Not Lord's Prayer)

PART 8

For Yours Is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever

All Children: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

Let the heights of heaven, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

Congregation and Children: Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, we bring,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unending praises sing,
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore.

Narrator 1: Christmas is a time of great joy. We find the love of God shining brightly in the Christmas story.

Group 1: Mary said, *"My spirit rejoices in God my Savior."*

Group 2: John the Baptist leaped in his mother's womb because he was in the presence of Jesus.

Group 3: Zechariah said, *"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel."*

Group 4: The angels sang, *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

Group 5: And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God.

Narrator 2: What a joyful occasion that first Christmas was, and that joy continues today. We can join in giving God our praises for his truly is the kingdom and the power and the glory.

Congregation & Children: GLORY TO GOD

*Low in a humble manger Jesus the Christ Child lay,
Watched by the virgin mother, there on the fragrant hay,
Keeping their loving vigil far from the worldly throngs,
When thro' the night came ringing glorious angel songs.*

*Chorus: "Glory to God" the angels sing;
Praises to Christ the heav'nly King;
Peace be on earth, good will to men,"
Hear we the angels sing again!
"Glory to God," the angels sing,
Praises to Christ, the heav'nly King;
Peace be on earth, good will to men,
Goodwill to men."*

*Little, the loving mother dreamed of their meaning then,
How He should die on Calv'ry, die for the sins of men.
Down through the weary ages, out from the manger bed
Streams all the light of heaven, soon o'er the world to spread. Chorus.*

Benediction

Narrator 1: Let's all join in praying the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

All children: The Lord's Prayer!

All: THE LORD'S PRAYER (O, Holy Night Version)

Our Father, God, who lives and reigns in heaven -

Oh, may Your Name be kept holy and blessed.

Your kingdom come; Your will be done forever.

Give us this day all of our daily bread;

Forgive our sin as we forgive each other.

Keep us from evil; help us not to stray.

Your kingdom reigns!

Your pow'r – it has no ending!

Your glory divine!

Father, Son, and Spirit One.

Our God, forevermore!

Amen! Amen!

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