



*Ring out
the good news*

I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS
OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL
BE FOR ALL PEOPLE.
TODAY IN THE TOWN
OF DAVID A SAVIOR
HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU;
HE IS CHRIST THE

Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11 (NIV)



SAMPLE PAGES

ABOUT THIS WORSHIP SERVICE. . .

RING OUT THE GOOD NEWS is a revision of the very popular program originally published in 1992. Now the original author has completely revised the service with:

- a fascinating free DVD shown during the singing of the theme song and its reprise
- three exciting new children's songs
- coordinating Advent service outlines
- five beginner handbell songs available to reinforce the service theme
- instructions for a giveaway ornament made by the students
- and a give-away Christmas song CD that can be personalized from your church/school

The program is based on Luke 2:10 *"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people!"* News! We hear it often every day. It's on the radio, television, and computers. It greets us in the morning and puts us to bed at night. This program is all about news, but not just news of this world. This news is much greater and far more important. It's the news that Jesus was born, and that he loved us enough to die for us. It's the news we should be eager to share with everyone. Daily news may be important today or tomorrow, but God's Good News is about eternity.

The program includes **NARRATION** by two narrators. You may choose older students to share the responsibility, or if your group is small have the pastor or a teacher read the parts. The sections labeled **RECITATION** always include a Scripture passage to recite.

THE CHILDREN'S SONGS

Ring Out the Good News by Reynold R. Kremer is the theme song of the service. This song is sung at the beginning and end of the worship program. Note that the end version includes different text. A DVD has been provided that may be used during the singing of the song. With this visual aide your congregation can certainly feel the importance of ringing out the news.

Born to Be Our King was graciously provided us by Elton Smith and Gilbert Barreto. The upbeat rhythm and eastern melody will be enjoyed by the older students.

The Manger Bed was written by Naomi Mahnke and is ideal for the younger children.

God Gave the World is used by permission of Edward Dowdall. This song has gained in popularity over the years and can easily be sung by the middle grades. (Available on this disk in one and two part.)

THE CONGREGATION'S SONGS

Although you may choose your own congregation hymns, the songs listed in the program include *Good Christian Men, Rejoice; Infant Holy, Infant Lowly; Silent Night; and Go Tell It on the Mountain*. The text has been included in the service but not the sheet music. If you cannot locate a copy of the sheet music, visit the Website www.cyberhymnal.org.

THE HANDBELL MUSIC

To add to the enjoyable theme of ringing out the good news, Kremer Publications has available five optional handbell/handchime songs for purchase. These are all level 1 and 2 songs for 2-3 octaves, and may be used for preservice music, during the offering, or at any other time of your choosing. For pricing or to listen to the music visit www.kremerpublications.com/christmas. Titles include:

Bell Jubilee
Bethlehem Dreams
The Danish Star Carol
O Come, Little Children

What Child Is This?

THE ADVENT SERVICE OUTLINES

Included on this disk are service outlines for each of the Advent services. These provide some guidance in fitting the theme of ***Ring Out the Good News*** into your Advent services leading up to Christmas. These outlines DO NOT include sermons, only sermon themes.

THE GIVE-AWAY ORNAMENT

Also included on this disk are the instructions for making tiny bell ornaments. These are to be made by the children in the weeks leading up to the service and may be handed out to everyone as they exit the church. (You may wish to have the students hand them out.) The ornaments are very inexpensive to make using only ribbon, gold chord, disposable communion cups, a small round bell, and an attached message card. (Cups and bells can be purchased in quantity at Kremer Publications.)

THE GIVE-AWAY CD

Also new this year is a CD that includes many of the original songs used in prior Kremer Christmas services. The inexpensive price includes a 5½" x 8½" card with a colorful Christmas message. The music CD is attached to a foam hub on this side of the card. The back side is left blank for your church's personal greeting, service times, phone numbers, etc. For more information go to www.kremerpublications.com/christmas.

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Ring Out the Good News

(Revised 2009 with new songs and additional text)

Luke 2:10 "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people!"

Preservice Music: (Have the early arrivers sing carols for about 30 min. before the service begins.)
Carols may be sung by the congregation.

Processional: (To be sung by all children as they march in. Ring the church bells as the accompaniment CD begins. Church bells may be rung throughout the singing of the processional. This song may be performed with handbells.)

Song: Ring Out the Good News (ALL children)

Refrain:

Ring out, ring out the Good News and
Sing out, sing out the Good News then
Bring out, bring out the Good News
This glorious Christmas time.

Come, strike, strike every bell 'cause there's
Something, something to tell as you
Sing out, sing out the Good News
This glorious Christmas time.

1) We'll chime in with angel chorus,
Turning each page one by one.
Glad tidings ringing for us,
New life has just begun.

Refrain

2) We stand here before you telling,
Hear our glad tidings unfold.
United voices are swelling
Good News that must be told.

Refrain

3) Dust off the brass bell and ring it;
Strike out with jubilant glee.
Sin's bondage has been ended,
The captive's been set free.

Double Refrain

Invocation (Pastor)

Responsive Reading

P: Let us prepare our hearts and voices for the message of hope, peace, and forgiveness that we find in the manger this most blessed day.

C: (sung) Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

P: Mankind has long been a prisoner, bound in the shackles of sin and locked behind the bars of hell. Today we worship this Savior who brings us the hope of eternal salvation.

C: (sung) He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

P: Yet what of the millions of unbelievers today on other continents, in other countries, as well as in our own neighborhoods, whose eyes are still blinded from God's gracious mercy and unending love?

C: (sung) He comes from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray
And on the eyeballs of the blind
To pour celestial day.

P: But we live in a world of hurt and pain. Illness, sadness, loneliness, worry, sorrow, and death follow us everywhere. They enter our homes, our schools, and our workplaces. Can this Savior bring any ray of hope to the hurting?

C: (sung) He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
T'enrich the humble poor.

P: Then let us lift up our voices in songs of praise and unleash the peal of bells throughout the earth in strains of joy and gladness. Let us shout from every mountaintop the message that a Savior has come to rescue everyone from sin and death and Satan. Let us ring out the Good News that brings each of us the hope of heaven.

C: (sung) Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Prayer:

Gracious Father in heaven, we come before your throne with hearts filled with praise and thanksgiving. Bless our worship together as we remember your promise kept in the Bethlehem manger and as we look forward to the beauty of eternal life with you in heaven. Give us the courage to take this message and ring out its glorious news to everyone, sharing the glad tidings of peace and joy that can be found only in Jesus Christ, our Bethlehem King. Amen.

PART ONE: First Some Good News and Some Bad News

ALL children: Above all the roar of the cities,
And over the hills and the dells,
With a message of peace to the nations,
Ring the beautiful Bethlehem bells.

(The Narrator could be a solo speaker or class recitation. It may also be read by the pastor.)

Narrator 1: NEWS! That's probably not what you came to hear today. Hardly a day goes by that we aren't surrounded with news. We see it in the daily paper. We hear it every half hour on the radio. We view it on TV at breakfast time, lunchtime, and suppertime. We find it everywhere on our computers, and of course we can catch a last glimpse of it before we go to bed at night. Some of us also subscribe to weekly news magazines. Plus we get up to the minute news stories as our ears perk up to News Flashes, News Updates, News Releases, News Briefs, and most certainly Special News Reports.

Narrator 2: These are all ways that our news media tries to get us to hear the latest, fast-breaking news stories. They would like us to think that they hold the scoop on the greatest news story of the day. But their news is so small and insignificant that we're not even going to talk about that kind of news today.

Child 1: *(Holding up Bible)* We've got some real news!

Child 2: *(Holding up Bible)* We've got some earth shattering news!

Child 3: *(Holding up Bible)* We've got some life-changing news!

Child 4: *(Holding up Bible)* We've got news that never gets old!

Narrator 1: Our news isn't something meant only for prime time, or that lasts for 60 minutes or 48 hours. This news is for an ETERNITY! Our news releases came right out of heaven and today we want to take this news to the world.

Congregational Song: "Good Christian Men Rejoice" (V. 1)

Good Christian men, rejoice

With heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:

News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and lamb before Him bow,

For He is in the manger now;

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Narrator 2: Years ago, news was sent throughout the town by a town crier who carried a bell in one hand and news in the other. They would walk through the streets shouting "Oyez! (OH-yea) Oyez! Oyez! before he gave the latest news. Oyez means "Hear ye" and was used to get peoples' attention.

Narrator 2: Today we once again walk the highways and byways shouting Listen! Listen! Listen! as we ring out the Good News of God's love and salvation for all.

Narrator 1: We've all heard the good news—bad news stories. That's just the way our news story begins: We've got some good news and some bad news.

Recitation: It says in the very first verse of the Bible, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1)

Narrator 1: And this blessing continued:

Child 1: *"And God said, 'Let there be light.'"*

Child 2: *"And God said, 'Let there be a sky.'"*

Child 3: *"And God said, 'Let there be seas.'"*

Child 4: *"And God said, 'Let there be vegetation.'"*

Child 5: *"And God said, 'Let there be lights in the sky.'"*

Child 6: *"And God said, 'Let there be birds and fish.'"*

Child 7: *"And God said, 'Let there be animals.'"*

All seven children: *"And God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness'. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. . . And it was very good!"* (Genesis 1:27 and 31)

Narrator 2: That was the very first news ever reported. Moses repeats the importance of this great news in Deuteronomy 4:32:

Recitation: *"Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of?"*

Narrator 2: Then the bad news began! People ruined this perfect creation. People destroyed this masterpiece. Adam and Eve's sin stained the image they shared with their Father. A wall now separated the Creator from his creation. The horrifying

news was that of sin and death and hell. There has never been worse news in the entire history of the world.

Recitation: In Romans 5:12 Paul wrote to tell others this bad news, *"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."*

Recitation: Ezekiel wrote about the bad news this way in chapter 18:4, *"For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son—both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die."*

Narrator 1: How many times haven't you complained that our news programs begin every newscast with bad news, continue with bad news, and end in the same way? It seems that if it's not bad news, it isn't news at all. That's not the way it was with God! He loved us so much that he followed the bad news with some GREAT news! And this was the best news in the entire history of the world.

Song: "Born to Be Our King" (Approx. Grades 4-8)
Copyright ©1996 by Gilbert Barreto and Elton Smith
From www.songsofpraise.org

1) In the town of Bethlehem a child was born
Of the line of David, born to be a King.
An angel came to shepherds in the fields nearby
And this is what he said:

Chorus 1

For unto you is born this day,
A Savior who is Christ the Lord.
For unto you is born this day,
A Savior who is Christ the Lord.

2) This will be a sign to you you'll find the child
In a humble setting wrapped in swaddling clothes.
Suddenly a host appeared all praising God,
And this is what they said:

Chorus 2

Sing glory to God in the highest,
Peace on earth and goodwill to men.
Sing glory to God in the highest,
Peace on earth and goodwill to men.

3) The shepherds hurried to the site and found the child
With his loving parents lying in the hay.
They told all of their friends about the joy they'd found,
And how the angels said:

Chorus 1 repeat

For unto you is born this day,
A Savior who is Christ the Lord.
For unto you is born this day,
A Savior who is Christ the Lord.

Chorus 2 repeat

Sing glory to God in the highest,
Peace on earth and goodwill to men.
Sing glory to God in the highest,
Peace on earth and goodwill to men.
Peace on earth and goodwill to men.

In the town of Bethlehem a child was born
Born to be our King.

Narrator 2: Instead of abandoning this sinful creation, God delivered a very special news report. He promised to send His only Son to this sinful earth, not to punish people but to die for them. Can we ever begin to understand how much love this took?

Recitation: Genesis 3:15 says, *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head and you will strike His heel."*

Recitation: Again, Paul writes in Romans 5:8, *"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Recitation: Jesus' disciple, John put it this way, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Narrator 2: This was the best news the world could possibly hear. It went from the curse of hell to the promise of heaven. There is no better news than this. Yes, God had some bad news—but he had some good news too. And that's exactly what the word GOSPEL means—Good News!

Congregational Song: "Infant Lowly, Infant Holy"

*Infant holy, infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe was born for you.
(Christ the Babe was born for you.)*

PART TWO: Waiting to Hear the News

ALL children: Bringing joy to the souls that are sighing
In homes where poverty dwells—
There is life, there is life for the dying
In the beautiful Bethlehem bells.

Narrator 1: Did you ever wait to hear some news? Wives have waited for news that the war is over and their loved one is coming home. Dads have waited to hear if it's a boy or a girl. Kids have waited for news of a family vacation. Family members have waited for news that the operation was a success and all is now well. We all wait for news, and we always hope that the news will be good news.

Narrator 2: Throughout the Old Testament, God's people looked forward to the Good News of the coming Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, finally coming to earth to rescue people everywhere. The wait was long, yet now and again God sent a prophet to give the people added news of the coming Savior.

Recitation: Isaiah's Good News said that the Savior would be born of a virgin, *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel."* (Isaiah 7:14)

Recitation: Moses told the people some Good News when he wrote in Genesis 49:10, *"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs."*

Recitation: Micah added his own Good News in his fifth chapter, second verse when he wrote, *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel."*

Recitation: Jeremiah also had some Good News to tell in his chapter 23:5, *"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch."*

Narrator 2: But the people of the Old Testament could only live in the promises of hope in the Good News. They would not see the Good News until the exact moment that God was ready to send His Son to earth.

Narrator 1: Galatians 4:4 says, *"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."*

Narrator 2: To those in the Old Testament it seemed like that day would never come. To us it seems so very long ago.

Song: "The Manger Bed" (Approx. Preschool – Grade 2)

1) 'Twas on a still, dark night, so very long ago.
Mary and Joseph with heart aglow
Looked on the blessed Babe, a prayer of thanks was said,
As they knelt before the manger bed.

Refrain:

Bring Him a crown, a crown for His head;
Worship the King lying in that manger bed!

2) 'Twas on a still, dark night, the skies all filled with mirth.
Angels announced the Savior's birth.
The shepherds filled with awe, to Bethlehem they sped,
And they knelt before the manger bed.

Refrain

3) And on this still, dark night, we come before you now.
Hearts full of faith our heads we bow,
With love complete and by the Spirit led
As we kneel before the manger bed.

Refrain

PART FIVE: Let's Ring Out the News!

ALL children: And forever and ever and ever
A wonderful melody dwells
In the tender, sweet ringing and singing
Of the beautiful Bethlehem bells.

Narrator 1: What happens when Dad gets news of a raise at work? What happens when the student gets an A+ on a school project? What happens when the dentist drops the news of no cavities? What happens when the young lady receives an engagement ring? What happens when the doctor tells someone that a cure has been found for their disease? All these people do exactly the same thing:

All Children: They tell someone!

Narrator 2: The New Testament is filled with passages that tell us what Christians did with the Good News.

Child 1: *"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ." Acts 5:42.*

Child 2: *"This is the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all." Acts 10:36.*

Child 3: *"They preached the Good News in that city and won a large number of disciples." Acts 14:21.*

Child 4: "Paul was preaching the Good News about Jesus and the resurrection." Acts 17:18.

Child 5: "Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there." Acts 8:5.

Child 6: "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." Acts 8:4.

Narrator 1: Where do we fit into this plan of telling the world the Good News of God's love? We should always be ready to share the news that God gave the world the most perfect gift!

Song: "God Gave the World (The Perfect Gift)" (Approx. Grades 2-4)

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1) God gave the world the Word made flesh
The tiny babe the silent crèche.
God gave the world on this darkest night
His only Son, His glorious light.

God gave the world, God gave the world,
God gave the world the perfect gift.

2) God gave the world what none could give
His child to die that we might live.
God gave the world when hope was gone
A second chance, a bright new dawn.

God gave the world, God gave the world,
God gave the world the perfect gift.

3) God gave the world the perfect gift:
This Holy Child our souls to lift.
It matters not though we may stray,
The gift He gives still lives today.

God gave the world, God gave the world,
God gave the world the perfect gift.
God gave the world the perfect gift.

Prayers and Benediction

Narrator 1: If you had the best news in the world what would you do with it?

Child 1: Would you let it sit on a shelf and get dusty?

Narrator 2: If you had news that would keep people from an eternity in hell, what would you do with it?

Child 2: Would you keep it a secret unless they asked you about it?

Narrator 1: If you had the message that could give people eternal life in heaven, what would you do with it?

Child 3: Would you be ashamed to ring out that news?

ALL Children: We've got to ring out the Good News! We've got to sing out the Good News! We've got to bring out the Good News!

Recessional: "Ring Out the Good News" (Reprise)

(All children. ReshowDVD once again. Congregation may join in on the chorus. Ring church bells again as the song is introduced and continue until the accompaniment CD has ended. Keep still until accompaniment it completely ended.)

Refrain:

Ring out, ring out the Good News and
Sing out, sing out the Good News then
Bring out, bring out the Good News
This glorious Christmas time.

Come strike, strike every bell 'cause there's
Something, something to tell as you
Sing out, sing out the Good News
This glorious Christmas time.

1) Dust off the brass bell and ring it,
Strike out with jubilant glee.
Sin's bondage has been ended;
The captive's been set free.

Refrain

2) Though millions don't hear the story,
Feeling the same joy we do,
We'll show them Bethle'm's glory
That they might join us too.

Refrain

3) Our message now ends in gladness;
There's nothing more we can say.
Gone is the gloom and sadness,
Ring out God's brand new day.

Double Refrain