

Gifts From the Manger

A Children's Christmas Service by Karen Maio

Morrison Zion Lutheran Church

December 24, 2012

Congregation and Children

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (CW 42)

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.
2. See how God, for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.
3. Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.
4. Jacob's Star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
5. Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;
From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

Welcome A blessed Christmas to you! We gather together once again to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. If I were to ask any one of the children here, "What is a major part of a birthday celebration?" one of the first answers I'm sure I would hear would be, "Presents!" Gifts are fun to receive, and some people find great satisfaction in picking out just the right present to give to someone. We are going to be talking about gifts, but not so much about gifts that are for the birthday boy, Jesus, but rather, gifts that are for all of us. Gifts that our gracious God generously gives to us through Jesus. Gifts from the manger!

Children Song: "It's Christmastime"

refrain It's Christmastime, so it is time to celebrate again,
To share the joy of the baby boy who was born in Bethlehem!

1. Ev'ry year we tell the story, the greatest story ever told,
Of a baby in the manger, on a night so clear and cold. **refrain**

2. And this baby born to Mary was really Jesus Christ the Lord.
He's the Word made flesh, Messiah, whom the angel hosts adored. **refrain**
3. Now the joy that we are feeling comes from the peace we have within,
Knowing that this baby Jesus has redeemed the world from sin. **refrain**

He is the promised one. He's Jesus, God's own Son!
It's Christmastime, so it is time to celebrate again,
To share the joy of the baby boy who was born in Bethlehem!
Jesus was born in Bethlehem!

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God gives us the gift of the WORD made flesh.

Sawyer Alexander & Gloria Blauert: At just the right time, God put his plan of salvation into action. In the gospel of Luke, we hear about an angel who appeared to a young girl named Mary, who was to be married to a man named Joseph. She was probably terrified at the angel's sudden appearance. The angel calmed her fears and told her about the birth of the Savior.

Grades 5-6:The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:30-38)

Grades 5-8 Girls: Song of Mary (CW pp. 57,58)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in ev'ry generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise made to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his children forever.
Amen.

Bryanna Cappelle & Jesse Doyen: God kept his promise; the Messiah finally came. His birth was not heralded by royal trumpets, but occurred simply, humbly, quietly, in the night. He was the answer to generations of prayers as the light to banish all doubt and darkness.

The gospel writer John records the Christmas story from heaven's perspective:

Grades 5-6: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3,10-14)

Congregation Hymn:

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
5. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

God gives us the gift of a KING.

Rachel Ihlenfeldt: The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of King Jesus about seven hundred years before Jesus was born.

Grades 3-4: 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. (Isaiah 7:14)

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. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be

no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6,7)

Emmett Kiley: The people waited, year after year, for the fulfillment of these prophecies, for their King, their Messiah, who would deliver them.

Grades 3 -4: 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. (Luke 2:1-7)

Emmett Kiley: Please join us as we worship Jesus, the newborn King.

Congregation & Children

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Children: 1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
refrain Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Cong.: 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! **refrain**

Cong.: 3. Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth. **refrain**

God gives us the gift of JOY.

Cody Kittell: This is the season of joy. Mary just had a baby! The shepherds were the first to hear the good news.

Grades 1- 2: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:8-12)

Erin Krueger: The shepherds glorified and praised God for all that they had seen and heard. This joy was not just for the original cast of the Christmas story. It extends to all who are redeemed, or bought back, by Jesus' precious blood.

Grades 1-2: They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)

Erin Krueger: Know the joy that is ours this season. Show the joy. Proclaim the Messiah to all!

Congregation Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

1. Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
2. Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!
3. Now through his Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned Through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
4. Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

God gives us the gift of LOVE.

Megan Laabs & Marissa Leick: From year to year many things can change—where you live, where you go to school, how you dress, how you style your hair—but there are some things that do not change over time. People sin. People need a Savior from sin. God loves us and has sent us that Savior.

4K & 5K: The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

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. (John 3:16)

Ashley Leiterman: The angels couldn't contain their joy at the news that Jesus had been born, and they joined with the messenger angel in singing praises to God for his gift of love.

4K & 5K: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13,14)

Grades 5–8:

Christmas Gift of Love

1. If you listen closely, you can hear the angel say,
Mary, you will have a baby boy.
You will name him Jesus; he will save the world from sin.
This Son of God will fill your heart with joy!
Do not be afraid, just trust in God above,
and you'll be amazed at this Christmas gift of love!
2. If you listen closely, you can hear the angel say,
Shepherds, listen what I have to say.
In the town of David, you will find a baby boy.
The Savior has been born to you today!
Do not be afraid, just trust in God above,
and you'll be amazed at this Christmas gift of love!
3. If you listen closely, you can hear the angel say,
Come and worship Jesus Christ the King.
Lying in the manger is the Lord, the Prince of peace.
Come honor him with joyful songs to sing!
Do not be afraid, just trust in God above,
and you'll be amazed at this Christmas gift of love!
Do not be afraid, you will be amazed at this Christmas gift of love!

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God gives us the gift of HOPE.

Emily Malcore: I hope I get a computer for Christmas. I hope the Packers win their next game. I hope it snows for Christmas. I hope my teacher gives me a good grade on that math test. These people all wish for things to happen. They desire them, long for them, hope for them. Yet not one of them can say with absolute certainty that his or her wish will come true.

Jonathan Otto: The hope we include as a gift from our manger tonight is different in that it has a sure promise of fulfillment. Through God's gift of love, our Savior offers to all who believe in him the sure hope of heaven.

Grades 7-8 Girls: Having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:7)

Grades 7-8 Boys: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3,4)

Grades 4K-Grade 4: *I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes*

1. I am so glad when Christmas comes, The night of Jesus' birth,
When Bethl'em's star shone as the sun, And angels sang on earth.
2. The little child of Bethlehem, He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above To help a world in need.
3. He lives again in heaven's realm, The Son of God today;
And still he loves his little ones And hears them when they pray.
4. I, too, shall sing my Savior's praise, My joy, my crown, my Lord;
For he has made me his own child By water and the Word.
5. And so I love each Christmas Eve, And I love Jesus, too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

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God gives us the gift of LIGHT.

Matthew Sabel & Colin Salm : Into a world of darkness, God shone his glorious light. From the skies full of light and angels to the star that guided the wise men, God signaled to all people that Jesus was born. His promise of salvation is a light in the minds and hearts of all who hear the news and believe. Jesus was born to be the one, true light to guide our lives and show us the way to salvation. Jesus said:

Grades 7-8 Boys: 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)

Grades 7- 8 Girls: In [Jesus] was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John 1:4-9)

Children

Shine on Me

1. Into a world of darkness, there shone a heavenly light.
Jesus, the promised Savior, was born that holy night.
Shine on me. Change this heart you see. Let it be your home inside of me.
2. Out in the desert calling, "Repent, for Jesus is near."
John points us to the Savior; the Light of the world is here.
Shine on me. Change this heart you see. Let it be your home inside of me.
3. The Lord of light has shown us he is the truth and the way.
Eternal life he'll give us when he returns someday.
Shine on me. Change this heart you see. Let it be your home inside of me.

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God gives us the gift of LIFE.

Victoria Wagner: Hand in hand with the love God gave and the hope he brings is the new life he offers through faith in Christ Jesus.

Grades 7-8 Boys: We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)

Grades 7-8 Girls: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Grades 7-8 Boys: Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)

Grades 7-8 Girls: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

God gives us the gift of PEACE.

Matthew Wendt: *Peace* is not always the first word that comes to mind when one thinks about Christmas. It can be a rather busy and noisy time with people rushing about to parties and shopping malls, bells ringing at the store entrances, and speakers playing carols everywhere you go. Yet this is the gift Christ brings us.

Grade 7-8: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. (Luke 2:14)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Noah Witt & Brandon Zittlow: This is not a worldly “peace and harmony among men” kind of peace, although that is a wonderful thing we could pray for. Rather, this is the peace between God and man that results from Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Because Christ was punished for all our sins, we can stand blameless and holy before God. Through faith in Christ and his redeeming grace, we have God’s gift of peace.

Grades 7-8: Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

Brandon Zittlow: Our next hymn is Silent Night. As we finish celebrating our congregation’s 150th anniversary we begin the hymn by returning to our German roots. The language has changed, but the message of Jesus’ birth remains constant. Please stand as we proclaim the good news of Jesus that we will continue to speak to the generations yet to come.

150th Anniversary Song:

Silent Night! Holy Night

Congregation Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Children Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Congregation Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Congregation Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer

M: Dear God, how can we begin to thank you? Our manger overflows with wonderful gifts from the Christ Child. What can we give in return for all the love you have shown us? Though our gifts would pale in comparison, we can offer our hearts full of love and obedience, our voices in songs of praise, and our lives in service to you. Give us your Holy Spirit to enable us to gladly and willingly bring you our gifts, Lord, out of love for you and all you have given us. In Jesus’ name we pray.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer

M: Dear Lord Jesus, you came into this sin-sick world to be our Savior from sin.

C: We thank you for your gift of love as the Word made flesh.

M: You show us that you are the true and only way to salvation and how we are now a new creation in you.

C: We thank you for your gifts of light and life.

M: We rejoice with the angels that we can come before you in prayer and gladly proclaim the news of our Savior's birth.

C: We thank you for your gifts of peace and joy.

M: Reign in our hearts, Lord Jesus, both now and in eternity.

C: We thank you for your gifts of hope from the newborn King.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Congregation Hymn

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

Children in the Christmas Program

4K and 5K

Connor Hutjens, Beau Salm, Ava Bamman, Sawyer Diny, Ellie Kandziora, Riley Feldkamp, Elizabeth Blauert, David Stein, Kiara Humann

Estella VandenWildenberg, Isaiah Muchka, Tessa Block, Josh Zirbel, Bryce Dobberpuhl, McKenzie Mathies, Olivia Sheider, Andrew Wegner, Brylie Zirbel

Grades 1 & 2

Chairs from left to right: Cody Hassemer, Heather Stein, Simon Alexander, Melissa Wotachek, Peyton Cappelle, Samantha Rusch, Justin Ossmann, Jordan Van Rossum, Logan Bamman, McKenzie Mathies

Front Bench from left to right: Andrew Doyen, Hannah Hutjens, Marshall Edinger, Kate Geib, Brayden Zirbel, Drake Baril, Alaina Feldkamp, Owen Scheider, Marcus Humann, Macey Block, Caden Yohanek, Jordan Magley, Isabella Blauert, Scott Schultz

Grades 3 & 4

Justin Laabs, Paige Zirbel, Cole Yohanek, Mitchell Leick, Anna Voster, Jordyn Ossmann, Georgia Blauert

Angelina Bamman, Cole Van Rossum, Desiree Koomen, Emma Geib, Ethan Diny, Stella Block, Carter Salm, Emma Otto, Jacob Gajewske, Emily Dobberpuhl

Grades 5 and 6

Erin Magley, Hayden Meulemans, Leah Kuchenbecker, Matthew Krueger, Lindsey Doyen, Zachary Diny, Natalie Zirbel

Elaine Blauert, Terrell Edinger, Emily Cappelle, Harmony Baril, Matthew Gajewske, Samantha Zittlow, Aaron Schultz

Payton Popp, Leah Nushart, Andrew Gajewske, Trisha Feldkamp, Thomas Voster, Sydney Salm, Jerod Voster

Hailey Witt, Seth Alexander, Alyssa Laabs, Hayden Block

Grades 7 & 8

Colin Salm, Jonathan Otto, Ashley Leiterman, Marissa Leick, Cody Kittell, Jesse Doyen, Sawyer Alexander

Brandon Zittlow, Matthew Sabel, Emily Malcore, Erin Krueger, Emmett Kiley, Bryanna Cappelle

Noah Witt, Matthew Wendt, Victoria Wagner, Megan Laabs, Rachel Ihlenfeldt, Gloria Blauert

Lauren Griepentrog, Anthony Feldkamp, Leah Voster, A. J. Laabs, Evan Vaughn, Leah Ihlenfeldt, Ben Dobberpuhl

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship is at 11:00 p.m. Christmas Festival Worship is at 9:00 a.m.