



*Merry Christmas*

A Christmas Eve Celebration  
*of*  
Lessons and Songs  
Christmas Eve, 2025

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Prayer of Invocation and Adoration**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Tonight, we come to light one candle. It is a candle to remind us that Jesus is our light He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who has come to offer salvation to all of mankind. Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

This candle stands a light for all to see. Jesus is the "Light of the World". This light is not hidden under a basket. This light is not placed in a closet. This light is placed for all to see it for Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself."

This candle id to remind us of Jesus – He is the reason for the season. It is in Him where true hope and joy are found.

**\*Song – Joy Has Dawned**

Verse 1

Joy has dawned upon the world; Promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled; Hope for ev'ry nation  
Not with fanfares from above; Not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love; Jesus born of Mary

Verse 2

Sounds of wonder fill the sky; With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life; Shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place; Shaped the earth in darkness  
Cling now to a mother's breast; Vulnerable and helpless

### Verse 3

Shepherds bow before the Lamb; Gazing at the glory  
Gifts of men from distant lands; Prophecy the story  
Gold a King is born today; Incense God is with us  
Myrrh His death will make a way; By His blood He'll win us

### Verse 4

Son of Adam Son of heaven; Given as a ransom  
Reconciling God and man; Christ our mighty Champion  
What a Savior what a Friend; What a glorious mystery  
Once a babe in Bethlehem; Now the Lord of history

**Glo – ri – a in excelsis Deo**  
**Glo – ri – a in excelsis De - o!**

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend  
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## Lesson 1 – Genesis 3:8-15

**God tells sinful Adam he has lost his life in Paradise, but that a Redeemer would come in the seed of the woman**

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

## **Song – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** **193**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

### **Lesson 2— Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

#### **The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined....For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **Song — Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, 196**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

### **Lesson 3 — Matthew 1:18-23**

#### **The Prophet's words come to pass**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man

and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

## **Song – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**194**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

**[Refrain]**

## **Lesson 4 — Luke 1:26-35**

### **The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God.

*If I Were There  
Away in a Manger  
Mary Did You Know*

**Lesson 5 — Luke 2:1-5**

**The Birth of Jesus according to Luke**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

**Special Music – Labor of Love**

Verse 1

It was not a silent night, There was blood on the ground  
You could hear a woman cry, In the alleyway that night  
On the streets of David's town

And the stable was not clean, And the cobblestones were cold  
And little Mary full of grace, With the tears upon her face  
Had no mother's hand to hold

**Chorus**

**It was a labor of pain, It was a cold sky above  
But for the girl, On the ground in the dark  
With every beat of her beautiful heart  
was a labor of love**

Verse 2

Noble Joseph by her side, Callused hands and weary eyes  
There were no midwives to be found, On the streets of David's town  
In the middle of the night

So he held her and he prayed, Shafts of moonlight on his face  
But the baby in her womb, He was the Maker of the moon  
He was the Author of the faith, That could make the mountains move

## Chorus

**It was a labor of pain, It was a cold sky above  
But for the girl, On the ground in the dark  
With every beat of her beautiful heart  
was a labor of love**

For little Mary full of grace  
With the tears upon her face  
It was a labor of love

It was not a silent night, on the streets of David's town.

Andrew Peterson

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## Lesson 6 — Luke 2:6-14

### The Shepherds Hear the Good News from the angels

<sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

### Song – What Child is This?

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1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2 Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

## **Lesson 7 — Luke 2:15-16**

### **The Shepherds go to Bethlehem**

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

### **Special Music –**

#### ***I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day***

##### **Verse 1**

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And mild and sweet their songs repeat,  
Of peace on earth good will to men

##### **Chorus**

And the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)  
Like a choir they're singing (Peace on Earth)  
In my heart I hear them, Peace on earth, good will to men

##### **Verse 2**

And in despair I bowed my head,  
There is no peace on earth I said  
For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men

##### **Chorus**

But the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)  
Like a choir singing (Peace on Earth)  
Does anybody hear them? Peace on earth, good will to men

##### **Bridge**

Then rang the bells more loud and deep  
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep (Peace on Earth, peace on Earth)  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
With peace on earth, good will to men

\* Indicates Stand if able

### **Verse 3**

Then ringing singing on its way The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime Of peace on earth, good will to men

### **Chorus**

And the bells they're ringing (Peace on Earth)  
Like a choir they're singing (Peace on Earth)  
And with our hearts we'll hear them Peace on earth, good will to men

### **Outro**

Do you hear the bells they're ringing? (Peace on Earth)  
The life the angels singing (Peace on Earth)  
Open up your heart and hear them (Peace on Earth)  
Peace on earth, good will to men  
Peace on earth, Peace on earth  
Peace on earth, Good will to men

## **A Christmas Meditation**

### **\*Song - Glorious Light**

Glorious light! see the dawn of Salvation:  
Angels in white fill the skies with their wondrous song;  
Awakening earth with news of His birth;  
Join the hymn of the highest heavens!

Long has the world fought the song of the angels.  
Heavenly music is drowned by a warring world;  
Yet hope burns a light, that shatters the night;  
Turn your heart to the call of glory!

Glory to God in the highest! Peace to men on earth.  
Come and adore Him with wonder -  
Christ Lord of Heaven and earth.

There is a day all creation has longed for -  
When all of time has been spent and the Lord returns;  
His song we'll repeat as heaven completes;  
Promised peace that will fill the nations!

Glory to God in the Highest Peace to men on earth.

\* Indicates Stand if able

Come and adore Him with wonder -  
Christ Lord of Heaven and earth.

*Keith & Kristyn Getty & Ian Hannah  
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**\*Lighting of the Candles**

**\*Song – Silent Night**

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!

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!

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 your birth! Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

**Benediction**

## Fun Christmas Family Trivia

- In the book of Matthew, who told Joseph that the baby was to be called Joseph?
  - An angel
  - Mary
  - The Magi
  - We don't know how they got there
- Which animals were actually present at the birth of Jesus?
  - Donkeys & Sheep
  - Cats & Dogs
  - Horses & Sheep
  - None of the above
- In the Gospel of Luke what is the city of David called?
  - Nazareth
  - Bethlehem
  - Jerusalem
  - Galilee
- Which angel appeared to Zechariah?
  - Gabriel
  - Charlie
  - Michael
  - Raphael
- How did Mary find out she was pregnant?
  - She felt the baby
  - She was told in a dream
  - An angel told her
  - She went to see a doctor
- When the shepherds saw a "heavenly host" they were looking at:
  - An angelic choir
  - An unusual electrical storm
  - An army from heaven
  - A friendly inn keeper
- Who was Elizabeth?
  - Mary's mother
  - Mary's sister
  - Mary's cousin
  - Mary's best friend
- What gifts did the Wise Men bring to the newborn king?
- The wise men were:
  - From Mardi Gras
  - From Baghdad
  - From the Orient
  - None of the above
- Which prophet said "unto us a child is born"?
  - Micah
  - Hosea
  - Isaiah
  - Jeremiah

## CANDY CANE

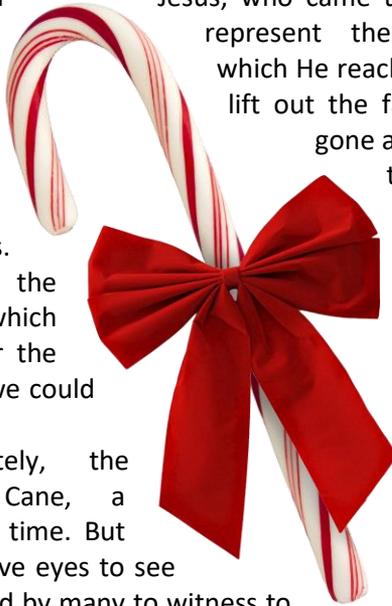
A Candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church and firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking somewhat plain, it with red stripes. stripes to show the Jesus received by which the cross so that we could eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a Candy Cane, a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there and ears to hear." May for those who "have eyes to see the Wonder of Jesus and His Great Love that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominant force in the universe today.



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