

# Christmas Eve



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 24, 2014



# ***Children of the Heavenly Father***

## **A Children's Christmas Service**

*by Gregory C. A. Lyon and Luke C. Were*

***Throughout the service tonight, our children will complete  
the now empty banner standing before you.  
For each of the five parts of the service, a symbol will be placed  
representing a specific truth about the special relationship  
between our Heavenly Father and his dear children.***

### **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

There's a Song in the Air and O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. Cindy Berry

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Arr. Roland H. Prichard

**Saxophone:** *Ronda McNamara*

### **PROCESSIONAL SONG: Congregation**

### **Oh, Come, Little Children**

Words: Christoph von Schmid

Music: Johann Abraham Peter Schulz

1. Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your Redeemer, your joy and delight.
2. He's born in a stable for you and for me;  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels, the heavenly child!
3. See Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where he lies.  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.
4. Kneel down and adore him with shepherds today.  
Lift up little hands now and praise him as they  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

*Please stand*

### **Invocation**

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## **Psalm 8:1-5**

M: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: **You have set your glory above the heavens.**

M: From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise

C: **Because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.**

M: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

C: **The moon and stars, which you have set in place,**

M: What is man that you are mindful of him,

C: **The son of man that you care for him?**

M: You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings

C: **And crowned him with glory and honor.**

**HYMN: Congregation**

**Acolyte:** *Isaac Walshaw*

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

Christian Worship #80

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing—yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

*Please be seated*

**Introduction: Pastor Kassulke**

**HYMN: Congregation**

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

Christian Worship #35, v.1

1. Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

## **Part 1: Children of the Heavenly Father Trust His Word**

**Narration:** Nicole McNamara

**MUSIC:** On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Arr. Valerie A. Floeter

**Piano:** Caleb Prigge

*On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring;  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring:  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.*

**Recitations: The Announcement of the Christ Child's Coming (Luke 1:26-35,38)**

Naomi Kassulke  
Brandon Walshaw  
Aliyah Armstrong

**HYMN: Congregation**

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

Christian Worship #35, v.2

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

## **Part 2: Jesus Became a Child to Make Us Children of the Heavenly Father**

**Narration:** Alicia Shanklin

**MUSIC:** Your Little Ones Dear Lord Are We

Words: Hans A. Brorson

**Piano:** Naomi Kassulke

Tune: Johann A. P. Schulz

*Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,  
And come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,  
That we the way to you may find.*

**Recitations: The Birth of the Christ Child (Luke 2:1-7)**

Colin Wilson  
Connor Farley  
Colby Heinz

## CHILDREN'S SONG (Preschool—Grade 2)

## As Each Happy Christmas

Words: J. W. Hey

Tune: J. C. H. Rinck

Preschool: Molly Farley      Anna Kassulke      Jaxton Newbrey  
Toby Grcevich      Zach Miller      Elsa Wiechmann  
Carson Heinz      Georgia Newbrey      Leah Wiechmann

Kindergarten: Jacob Cole  
Grayson Festerling  
Hailey Grcevich  
Sam Kassulke  
Olivia Wilson

*As each happy Christmas  
Dawns on earth again,  
Comes the holy Christ Child  
To the hearts of men.*

*Enters with his blessing  
Into every home,  
Guides and guards our footsteps,  
As we go and come.*

## Part 3: Children of the Heavenly Father Rejoice in God's Grace

Narration: Isaac Walshaw

### HYMN: CONGREGATION

### Of the Father's Love Begotten

Christian Worship #35, v.3

3. This is he whom heav'n-taught singers  
Sang of old with one accord;  
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

### Recitations: The Shepherds and Angels Rejoice (Luke 2:8-14)

Emma Miller  
Emily Rudd  
Dakota Wheeler

## CHILDREN'S SONG

## Angels Praise Him (Medley)

Arr. Kathy Parra

*To shepherds as they watched by night Appeared a host of angels bright;  
"Behold the tender babe," they said, "In yonder lowly manger laid."*

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*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!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## Part 4: Children of the Heavenly Father Proclaim God's Word

**Narration:** Grace Hansen

**MUSIC:** Away in a Manger

Christian Worship #60

**Flute:** Nicole McNamara and Alicia Shanklin

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

## Recitations: The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem (Luke 2:15-20)

Brandon Walshaw

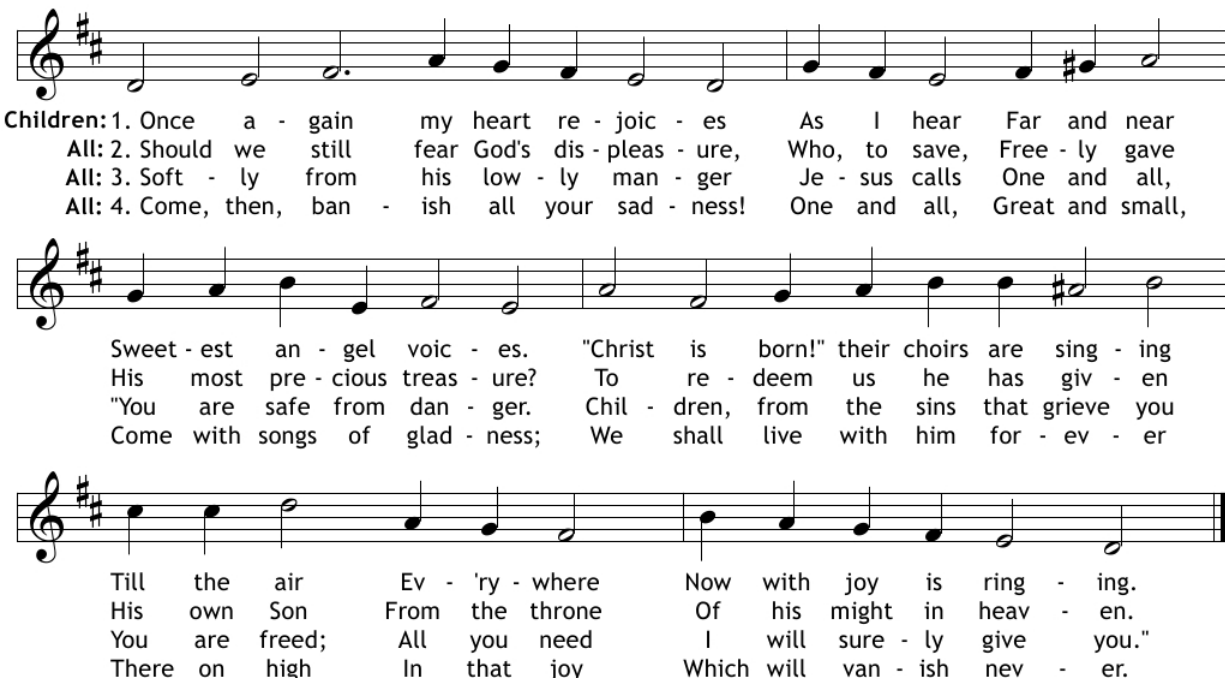
Isabella Prigge

Logan Farley

**HYMN:** Children and Congregation

**Once Again My Heart Rejoices**

Christian Worship #37



Children: 1. Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
All: 2. Should we still fear God's dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
All: 3. Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls One and all,  
All: 4. Come, then, ban - ish all your sad - ness! One and all, Great and small,

Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing  
His most pre - cious treas - ure? To re - deem us he has giv - en  
"You are safe from dan - ger. Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you  
Come with songs of glad - ness; We shall live with him for - ev - er

Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
His own Son From the throne Of his might in heav - en.  
You are freed; All you need I will sure - ly give you."  
There on high In that joy Which will van - ish nev - er.

## Part 5: By Faith, We Are Children of the Heavenly Father

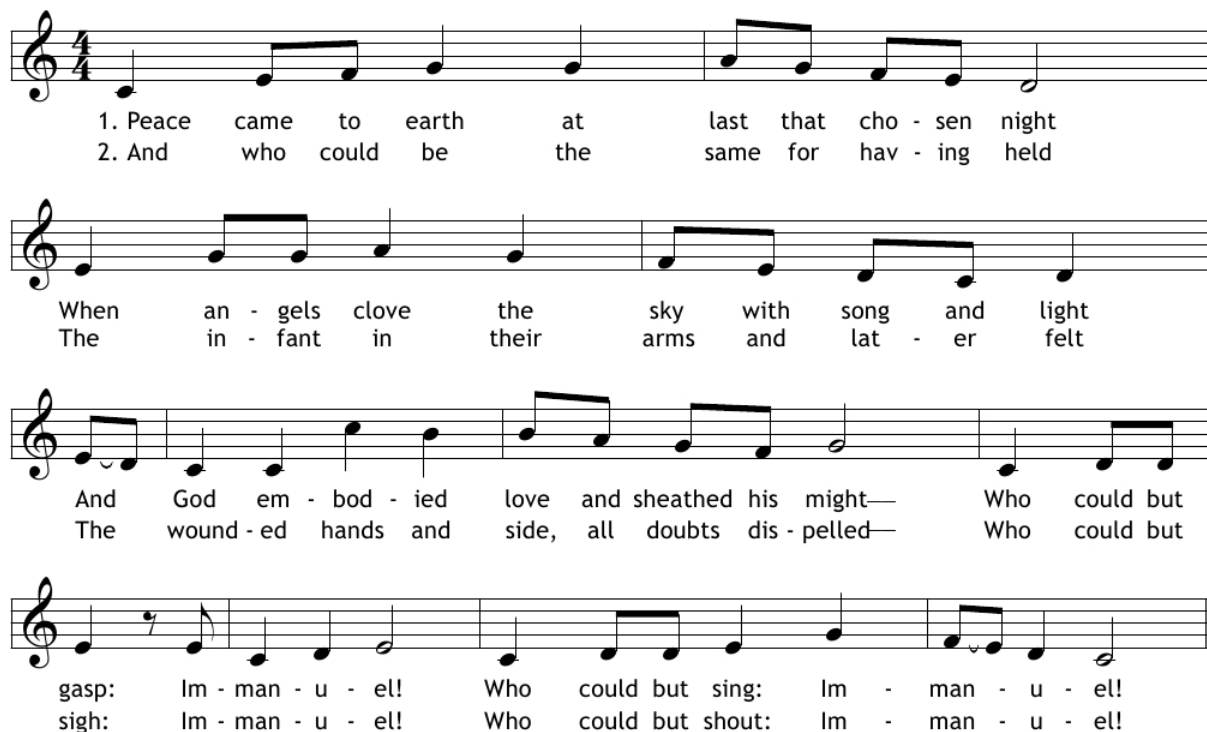
Narration: Ronda McNamara

HYMN: Congregation

Violin: *Maya Parra*

Peace Came to Earth

Christian Worship Supplement #707



1. Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
2. And who could be at the same for hav - ing held

When an - gels clove the sky with song and light  
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt

And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
The wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but

gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!

### Recitations: We See Jesus With a Childlike Faith (Matthew 18:1-5,10 and Romans 8:14-17)

Rachel Prigge

Jacob Miller

Narration: Jacob Miller

#### Class recitations

**3-4 grade:** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)

**5-6 grade:** 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. (John 1:12,13)

**1-2 grade:** I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. (1 John 2:12)

**Kindergarten:** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:16)

**Preschool:** Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children. (Ephesians 5:1)

**All Children:** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! (1 John 3:1)

## HYMN: Children, Choirs and Congregation

## Children of the Heavenly Father

Arr. Kathy Parra

**Children:** 1. Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in his bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or star in heaven  
Such a refuge ne'er was given.

**Young Men's Choir:** 2. God his own doth tend and nourish;  
In his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them;  
In his mighty arms he bears them.

**Worship Choir:** 3. Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord his children sever;  
Unto them his grace he showeth,  
And their sorrows all he knoweth.

**All:** 4. Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

**Narration: Rachel Prigge**

### Recitations from Luther's Catechism

**1-6 grade:**

Our Father in heaven.

**Preschool–Kindergarten:**

*What does this mean?*

**7-8 grade:**

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father.

**Narration: Jeffrey Hock**

*Please stand*

### The Second Article and Explanation

**Congregation:**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**Children:**

*What does this mean?*

**Congregation:**

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

*Please be seated*



## SONG: Children, Young Women's Choir, Congregation

## Jesus Loves Me

Arr. Kathy Parra

Young Women's Choir  
and 3-8 grade girls:

My Jesus loves me, this I know  
For the Bible tells me this is so.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

All Children:

Jesus loves me, He who died, Heaven's gates to open wide;  
He has washed away my sin, Let this little child come in.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children and Congregation: Jesus loves me, this I know, As He loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, Saying, "Let them come to me."  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

### Offering

MUSIC: Children of the Heavenly Father  
Tone Chimes and Handbells: 1-8 grade

*Please stand*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, heavenly Father, we are thankful that you fulfilled all of your ancient promises and sent us a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Your Son left the glory of heaven and became flesh of our flesh. He became our brother so that through him we might become your children. We marvel at his grace, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich. We are indeed rich, for we have peace with you and access to your throne in every need.

Dear Savior, give us a simple, childlike faith that sees your glory even in your lowliness. Help us all to rejoice in your birth. In sincere faith we join the song of the angels, share the delight of the shepherds, and adore you with the Magi. May the truth, love, and redemption that you have brought dwell in our hearts and lives. Like Mary may we keep all these things and ponder them in our hearts. And since you came for all people, help us share the good news of great joy we have in you.

As you have shown us your glory on this holy evening, so one day bring us into your glory in heaven, where we will take our places among the saints and angels. There we will forever praise and glorify you for the grace and mercy you have shown to us poor sinners. Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of your name. Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Congregation  
Trumpet: *Tyler Koehler*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain  
Christian Worship #57

## REFRAIN:

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. **Refrain**
2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**
3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

POSTLUDE: Celebration Medley  
Piano: *Caleb Prigge*

Arr. Mona Rejino

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## THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Service Leader ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke  
Accompanist ..... Kathy Parra  
Christmas Service Directors ..... Beth Kassulke and Kathy Parra  
Young Men's Choir ..... Darin Colton, Dylan Guenther, Jacob Hansen, Danny Koehler,  
Jon Miller, Taylor Parra, Dustin Pauley, James Pauley, Josiah Weinstein  
Young Women's Choir ..... Elizabeth Colton, Katelyn Lipke, Nicole Peterson, Abby Walshaw  
Worship Choir Director ..... Teri Guenther  
Banner ..... Jeanette O'Donald, Nadine Rentschler, Sandy Weir  
Cover Art ..... Laura Lipke  
Ushers ..... Dylan Guenther, Lucas Guenther, Tyler Koehler,  
Jon Miller, Dustin Pauley, James Pauley  
Sound and Recording Tech ..... Jeremy Snavelly  
Sunday School Teachers..... Christa Kassulke, Karen Grorud, Dylan Guenther, Denise Hansen,  
Erika Hanson, Meghan Heinz, Julie Prigge,  
Amy Rudd, Kathy Silver, Debra Walshaw

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*If you would like to view this service again or to share it with friends or relatives, it will be posted on the Grace website later this week. Find it at [www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org](http://www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org), and click on "Worship & Study."*

Thank you for joining us for worship this Christmas Eve. We pray that God will continue to strengthen you in your faith through his Word, during this blessed season and beyond. If you are a guest with us tonight and do not have a church home, we would consider it a special privilege to share God's Word with you on a regular basis. Please take a guest packet from the table near the exit to learn more about Grace and the ministries God has allowed us to undertake.

We invite you to join us for these holiday worship services:

**Christmas Day  
Festival Worship**  
Thursday, December 25  
at 10:00 AM at Grace-Tucson

**New Year's Eve Worship**  
Wednesday, December 31  
at 6:30 PM  
at Grace-Tucson

### Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

**At Grace-Benson**  
451 W. Duane St  
7:30 AM    Worship Service

**At Grace-Sahuarita**  
17675 S. La Canada Dr  
9:45 AM    Worship Service

**At Grace-Tucson**  
830 N. First Avenue  
7:45 AM    Worship Service  
10:00 AM    Worship Service

**At Grace-Vail**  
Worshiping at Esmond Station School  
9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way  
10:00 AM    Worship Service

[www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org](http://www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org)

