

Worship Plan - Church Year C 2021-2022



12/24/2021 - Christmas Eve

SERIES THEME

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets this child apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

THEME OF THE DAY

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? (series kick-off has same theme as series itself)

This Christmas Eve, an angel answers that question. "A savior has been born to you." It is a stunning statement, for two reasons. First, this child looks nothing like what we would expect in a hero-savior. This child is weak, helpless, and mired in poverty. Second, he has come to bring salvation "to you." It is a salvation we all need desperately. It was God's gift to us, given on that first Christmas Eve.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 - The prophet Isaiah foretold a child who would bring the light of God's grace to a world mired in darkness.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:9-14 - How do you know, for certain, that God loves you? He sent this child, his only Son, to be the sacrifice for your sins.

GOSPEL

*** Luke 2:1-20 - What child is this? The Savior who is born to you.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

local choice

Ambitious:

local choice

Opening Hymn:

344 - What Child Is This

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 96A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Festivals - Set 2

Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

329 - All My Heart Again Rejoices

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

353 - Joy to the World

350 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Closing Hymn:

337 - Silent Night, Holy Night

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

option: opening - 329; pre-sermon - 344

Notes for the conservative service:

Cantor or choir handle proper verse; may also introduce Alleluia refrain as desired.

Notes for the ambitious service:

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2021-2022



12/25/2021 - Christmas Day

SERIES THEME

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets this child apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

THEME OF THE DAY

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? GOD IN THE FLESH

The Lord had told Moses, "No one may see me and live." If sinners cannot even bear to look upon the glory of God, then they certainly could not hope to live with God in the glory of heaven. So, on that first Christmas, God chose to hide his glory under flesh. What child is this? It is God and man in one person, exactly what the human race needed to deliver it from its enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Christmas Day serves up the deep stuff of Christmas: the miracle and mystery of the incarnation.

FIRST READING

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7 - To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh. To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-32 - If the Father was willing to give us his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.

GOSPEL

*** John 1:1-18 - In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

local choice

Ambitious:

local choice

Opening Hymn:

354 - O Come, All Ye Faithful

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 98A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law. (Galatians 4:4,5)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Festivals - Set 2

Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

358 - Of the Father's Love Begotten

366 - O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

*342 - O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

Closing Hymn:

346 - Angels We Have Heard on High

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

348 - A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

352 - Joy Has Dawned

Notes for the conservative service:

Consider cantor during distribution, depending on local distribution customs.

Notes for the ambitious service:

Worship Plan - Church Year C
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12/26/2021 - First Sunday after Christmas

SERIES THEME

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

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THEME OF THE DAY

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? OUR SUBSTITUTE AND SACRIFICE

Already as a child, Jesus' saving work had begun. His entire life, he served as our substitute, perfectly obeying God's Law. Just think of how we often neglect the study of God's Word. Then look at twelve-year-old Jesus, eager to be in the temple learning more about Scripture. However, he would need to do more than be our substitute. Eventually he would lay that perfect life down as the sacrifice for our sin.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9 - The servant of the Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah. While we have not always trusted God, Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.

SECOND READING

*** Hebrews 2:10-18 - Through his suffering and sacrifice, Jesus has made us holy. He now calls us his brothers and sisters.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52 - Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the heavenly Father and respect for God's holy Word.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

The Service (hymn tune canticles)
Setting 1 Gospel Acclamation

Ambitious:

The Service (hymn tune canticles)
Setting 3 Gospel Acclamation

Opening Hymn:

356 - God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 84A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations. (Luke 2:30,31)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 1 or 3

Seasonal or Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

355 - Let All Together Praise Our God

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

335 - To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

Closing Hymn:

349 - A Great and Mighty Wonder

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

979 - The Boyhood of Christ - this new tune is the same tune as the optional hymn #915 at Advent 1

515 - Christ Is the World's Light - new tune (choral adaptation)

Notes for the conservative service:

Metrical = HYFRYDOL (Gloria); MISSIONARY HYMN (Sanctus); HAMBURG (Agnus Dei)

Notes for the ambitious service:

Worship Plan - Church Year C 2021-2022



1/2/2022 - Second Sunday after Christmas

SERIES THEME

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets this child apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

THEME OF THE DAY

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? HE TURNS SLAVES INTO SONS

The ability to appreciate Christmas is directly proportional to the understanding of whom Christmas is for. Christmas is only meant for those who are held captive by our enemies, sin and death. Christmas is for people who have no power of their own to free themselves from those enemies. Christmas is for people who patiently wait for God to set them free. God's Christmas gift is for slaves, but it does not leave them that way. Jesus takes those born in slavery and turns them into sons and daughters of God. He makes us heirs of a glorious, eternal inheritance. He sets us free from a forced servitude to our enemies and replaces it with joyful service to our loving Father.

FIRST READING

Genesis 17:1-7 - The Lord promised Abram that his descendants would become a great nation whom God Almighty would love as his own sons and daughters.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7 - Christ has freed us from slavery and made us God's children and heirs.

GOSPEL

*** Luke 1:68-79 - At the birth of John the Baptist, his father Zechariah sings a song praising the Lord. God's people, held captive by their enemies, would be redeemed and set free.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

The Service (hymn tune canticles)
Setting 1 Gospel Acclamation

Ambitious:

The Service (hymn tune canticles)
Setting 3 Gospel Acclamation

Opening Hymn:

362 - Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 148A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Psalm 98:3)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 1 or 3

Seasonal or Proper Verse

Hymn of the Day:

383 - The Only Son from Heaven

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

*660 - Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Closing Hymn:

954 - Blessed Be the God of Israel

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

973 - Now Bless the God of Israel (lyrical Benedictus by Haugen) and 974 (chant Benedictus by Stanford) fit the gospel but, if used, would not best serve as closing hymns. Perhaps cantor or small group offertory could be a way to introduce them, if desired.

Notes for the conservative service:

Metrical = HYFRYDOL (Gloria); MISSIONARY HYMN (Sanctus); HAMBURG (Agnus Dei)

Notes for the ambitious service:

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1/6/2022 - Epiphany

SERIES THEME

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THEME OF THE DAY

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? A LIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE

The twelve days of Christmas are over. Likewise, our worship series—What Child Is This—comes to an end today with the Festival of the Epiphany, a celebration of the first time non-Jewish believers worshiped the newborn Savior. They were guided by a special light in the sky to a child who would be a light for all people. We live in a world where sin can divide people along so many lines: ethnicity and race, rich and poor, red states and blue states, etc. The only dividing line Jesus cares about is the one that separated sinful mankind from a holy God. By his death and resurrection, he removed that line and united all believers into one kingdom. For that, we offer him our finest gifts.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 10:1-9 - A queen from Africa visits King Solomon and comes to learn of the eternal love that the Lord has for all people.

SECOND READING

*** Acts 13:46-49 - Paul's mission was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. For God desires salvation to be brought to the ends of the earth.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12 - In his grace, God used a special light to lead foreign priest-astronomers to the Light of the world. These new believers respond with worship and sacrifice.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

Evening Prayer

Ambitious:

Evening Prayer

Opening Hymn:

n/a

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 72A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.
(Matthew 2:2)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

n/a

Hymn of the Day:

370 - How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

n/a

Closing Hymn:

373 - Brightest and Best

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

Notes for the conservative service:

Gladdening Light would need to be introduced or aided by a mic'd cantor or presiding minister; Magnificat would need to be the second option; Brightest and Best is a new tune (O QUANTA QUALIA) that people might not remember from TLH.

Notes for the ambitious service:

New Magnificat with lyrical refrain and chanted verses