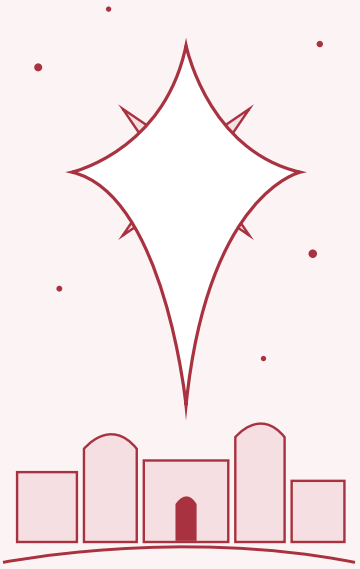
ORDER OF SERVICE

A Christmas Eve family service

A 35-minute service for children and adults, with two Luke 2 readings, carols, the Christ candle and a blessing.



IN THIS ORDER

Welcome the children 2

Away in a Manger 2

The birth of Jesus *Luke 2:1-7* 2

The shepherds and the angels *Luke 2:8-14* 3

A message for the children 3

Lighting the Christ candle *John 1:5* 3

Silent Night with battery candles 4

Joy to the World, prayer and blessing *Numbers 6:24-26* 4

Scripture from the Berean Standard Bible, dedicated to the public domain. Responses and prayers by Church Posting. Any church may copy them.

churchposting.com/resources/worship/christmas-eve-order-of-service/

ABOUT 3 MINUTES

Welcome the children

A pastor welcomes the families and asks the children to come to the front. Show the children where they will sit, sing, read and act out the Christmas story.

ABOUT 3 MINUTES

Away in a Manger

SING Away in a Manger

ABOUT 4 MINUTES

The birth of Jesus

An older child reads Luke 2:1-7. A younger child holds a doll wrapped in cloth and places it in the manger at verse 7.

READ LUKE 2:1-7

> [1]Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census
> should be taken of the whole empire. [2]This was the first census to take place
> while Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3]And everyone went to his own town to
> register. [4]So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city
> of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. [5]He
> went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was
> expecting a child. [6]While they were there, the time came for her Child to be
> born. [7]And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in
> swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them
> in the inn.

SING O Little Town of Bethlehem *First verse.*

ABOUT 9 MINUTES

The shepherds and the angels

A parent reads while the children act out the passage. The shepherds pretend to watch their sheep. One angel comes forward at verse 9. The other angels join at verse 13 and stand together for verse 14.

READ LUKE 2:8-14

> 8 And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over
> their flocks by night. 9 Just then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the
> glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel
> said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy
> that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a Savior has been born
> to you. He is Christ the Lord! 12 And this will be a sign to you: You will find a
> baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there
> appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God
> and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom
> His favor rests!”

SING Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

ABOUT 7 MINUTES

A message for the children

A pastor speaks to the children for seven minutes, with the adults listening. Tell the story of Jesus born in Bethlehem and the good news the angels announced to the shepherds.

ABOUT 2 MINUTES

Lighting the Christ candle

An older child lights the white Christ candle with a long lighter, and a parent stands beside the child. A second parent reads John 1:5, and the children hold up their battery candles when they hear the word light.

READ JOHN 1:5

> 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

ABOUT 4 MINUTES

Silent Night with battery candles

The children keep their battery candles with them. An adult stands near each row of children.

SING Silent Night *First and last verses, with battery candles.*

ABOUT 3 MINUTES

Joy to the World, prayer and blessing

SING Joy to the World

PRAYER Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus. Thank you for the good news the angels announced. Help us receive him with joy and tell others what we have heard. Amen.

The pastor faces the people and gives the blessing.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

> [24] May the LORD bless you and keep you; [25] may the LORD cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; [26] may the LORD lift up His countenance toward you and give you peace.