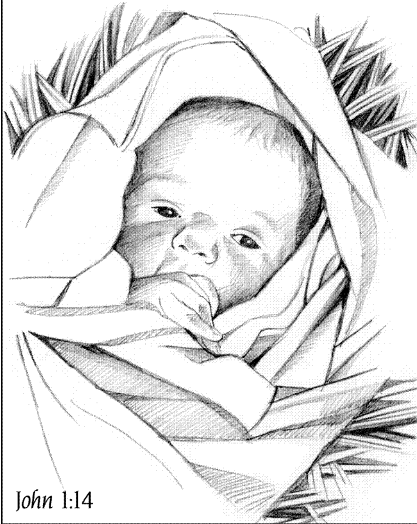


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The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.



John 1:14

See Christmas Through a Child's Eyes

Processional:.....Come Hither, Ye Children

Congregation: Stanzas 1 & 4; Children: Stanza 2-3

- 1. Come hither, ye children, O 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.**

Responsive Reading:Galatians 4:1-7

Pastor: Now I say *that* the heir, as long as he is a child,

Congregation: ... **does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,**

Pastor: ... but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

Congregation: **Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.**

Pastor: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,

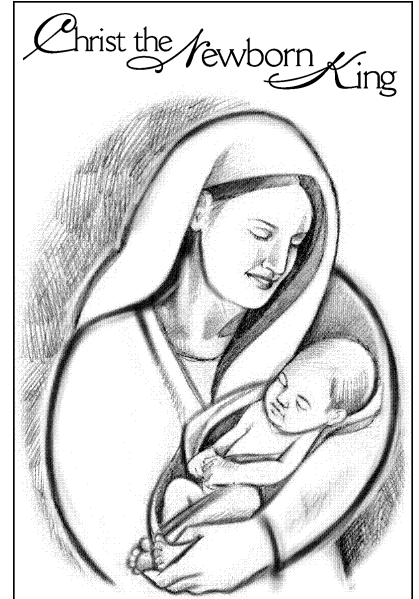
Congregation: ... **born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,**

Pastor: ... that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Congregation: **And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

Pastor: Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son,

Congregation: ... **and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**



INTRODUCTION:

SEE CHRISTMAS THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

Narrator: Christmas is often exciting for children. The candy and gifts bring a sparkle to a child's eyes, causing adults to smile. Christmas really ought to be special for everyone, a time in which people of all ages can be excited as little children. The greatest gift is given to us: our Savior, Christ the new-born King. Even He was a Child with a sparkle in His eyes as He in love came to save us. So tonight God invites us all to

SEE CHRISTMAS THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

Children:.....WS 713: *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We*

1. 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.
2. With songs we hasten You to greet
And humbly fall before Your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
That gave You birth, our souls' delight.
3. Oh, draw us wholly to You, Lord,
To us Your constant grace accord;
True faith and love to us impart,
That we may hold You in our heart.
4. Until at last we, too, proclaim,
With all Your saints, Your glorious name;
In Paradise our songs renew
And praise You as the angels do.

PART ONE: *THE EYES OF THE CHILDREN OF MEN*

Narrator: When God created the world, everything was perfect. Adam and Eve were innocent and did not have to deal with the negative affects of aging. They were perfect children of God without any worries. But sin ruined everything, making us all children of men who have a sinful nature.

Ned: To the woman [the LORD] said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; ..." (Genesis 3:16)

Emily: The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; *There is* none who does good, No, not one. (Psalm 14:2-3)

Charles: "Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin; ..." (Isaiah 30:1)

Grade 3: Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes,
But the LORD weighs the hearts. (Proverbs 21:2)

Hymn:.....Rejoice Ye Sons of Men Alway! (TLH 85)

- Congregation:** Stanza 3 (following page); Children: Stanzas 1-2
1. Rejoice, ye sons of men alway!
God comes to you from heav'n today;
The Lord is born a little child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild.
 2. He brings us peace and happiness,
He heals all sorrow and distress
Which on account of Adam's fall
Forever weighed upon us all.



**3. Through His low birth and holy blood
We are all saved by Christ, true God;
The angel's glory we shall share
And in His kingdom live fore'er.**

Christina: And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Holly: ... we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- ... (Ephesians 4:14-15)

Grade 7: For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ... (Ephesians 5:8)

Congregation:.....TLH 105: *Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men*



- 1. Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heaven again
And gives us His own Son. (Repeat)**
- 2. He leaves His heavenly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall. (Repeat)**
- 6. A wondrous change which He doth make!
He takes our flesh and blood,
And He conceals for sinners' sake
His majesty of God. (Repeat)**
- 7. He serves that I a lord may be;
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need? (Repeat)**



PART TWO: *THE EYES OF THE CHILD'S LOVE*

Narrator: In spite of becoming children of men inclined to sin, God in His grace looked upon mankind through His eyes of grace. He set forth the plan to rescue us from our plight by sending Jesus into the world. As Jesus came as one of us, He, too, looked through His eyes in love. He was committed to changing things: reconciling us to God by His life, death, and resurrection.

John: In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9)

David: ... the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ... (Titus 3:4)
... God did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, ... (Romans 8:32)



**“Jesus Loves
the Little Children”**

Taylor: In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Brooke: For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

Grades K-2: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Pre-School:

Jesus loves children, Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves you with love tenderly.

Children:.....*Jesus Loves the Little Children*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.</p> | <p>2. Jesus died for all the children,
All the children of the world.
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus died for all the children of the world.</p> |
|--|--|

PART THREE: *THE EYES OF THE CHILD WHO'S BORN*

Narrator: To carry out God's plan, Jesus needed to be born. Even as Jesus lay in the manger as the little Child, He remained our almighty God and Savior. He looked out at the world through His eyes in compassion and with lovingkindness. He saw the world's need and began His mission of saving sinners.

Choir & Children:.....*Little Children, Can You Tell*

Choir: Stanza 1; Children: Stanzas 2-3

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1. Little children, can you tell,
Do you know the story well,
Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy,
Why the angels sing for joy
On this Christmas evening?</p> | <p>2. Yes, we know the story well;
Listen now, and hear us tell,
Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy
Why the angels sing for joy
On this Christmas evening.</p> | <p>3. For a little Babe that day
Cradled in a manger lay,
Born on earth our Lord to be;
This the wond'ring angels see
On this Christmas evening.</p> |
|---|--|--|

Children:.....*Luke 2:1-7*

(1) And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (2) (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) (3) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. (4) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) (5) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. (6) And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. (7) And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Reason for the Season



Children:.....*Away in a Manger*

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1. 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.</p> | <p>2. The cattle are lowing,
The Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus,
No crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle
Till morning is nigh.</p> | <p>3. Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever,
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there.</p> |
|--|---|---|

Children:..... Luke 2:8-14



Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
Luke 2:12

(8) And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. (10) And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. (11) "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (12) "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, (14) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

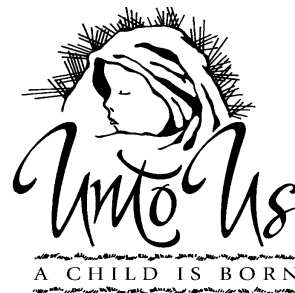
Congregation:.....TLH 646: Silent Night

**1. 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.**

**2. 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!**

Children:..... Luke 2:15-20

(15) And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." (16) And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. (17) And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. (18) And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (19) But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. (20) And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



Adam: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Choir:.....For Unto Us a Child Is Born (From Handel's *Messiah*)

PART FOUR: *THE EYES OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD*

Narrator: Jesus' mission was to live out a perfect life in our place and then give His life as a payment for the penalty of sin. In doing so, God has declared the entire world of sinners as "not guilty," in His sight. This message of salvation is that which the Holy Spirit uses to draw the children of men to Him so that they become children of faith, God's very own children.

Kenny: I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. (1 John 2:12)

Rachel: But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

Adam: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, ... (Romans 8:16-17)

Brandon: For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27)

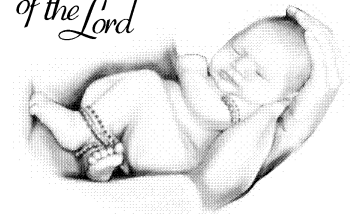
Grade 4: And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" (Galatians 4:6)

Children:.....WS 751: *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

1. God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Karie: ... praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory *is* above the earth and heaven. And He has exalted the horn of His people, The praise of all His saints -- Of the children of Israel, A people near to Him. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 148:13-14)

*Baptized
in the name
of the Lord*



Abbie: For as the heavens are high above the earth, *So* great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities *his* children, *So* the LORD pities those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:11-13)

Matthew: Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Ephesians 5:1)

Eric: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ... (Romans 8:14-16)

Congregation: TLH 647: O Little Town of Bethlehem

**3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will Receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, Abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!**

PART FIVE: THE EYES OF CHILD-LIKE FAITH

Narrator: All of us very likely look at Christmas in times past, the days when we were younger and seemed to enjoy Christmas more. As we age our makeup and joy can become scarred by the impacts of this sinful world. But Christmas reminds us that Christ was born to resolve all this, coming into the world to take away our sin. As children of God, we need to simply believe this and place our total trust in our heavenly Father just as a little child places his trust in his parents. No matter what age we are, the joy and excitement of Christmas can be ours for we are all to be as little children toward our Savior, living in child-like faith.

Ned: Then they brought little children to [Jesus], that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*.

Charles: But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them,

Taylor: "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

David: "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Brooke: And He took them up in His arms, put *His* hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)

Children:..... WS 753: *Let the Children Come to Me*

1. "Let the children come to Me,
And forbid them not;
To such belongs the kingdom.
Come to set your children free.
Let the children come to Me."

2. "Bless the children in My name.
Water with My Word
Refreshes with forgiveness,
Brought to them in Spirit-flame.
Bless the children in My name."

Kenny: At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Brandon: Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said,

Emily: "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Rachel: "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

John: "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me." (Matthew 18:1-5)

Hymn:..... WS 785: *Children of the Heavenly Father*

Congregation: Stanzas 3-4; Children: Stanzas 1-2

1. Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

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.

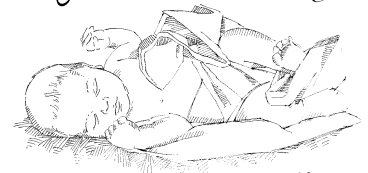
3. **Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

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



Let the little children
come to me....

And he will be their peace



Mich 5:5

Holly: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ... (Ephesians 1:3, 5)

Eric: And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (1 John 2:28)

Abbie: Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1 John 3:2)

Matthew: You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Karie: Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ... (1 Peter 1:13-14)

Christina: Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. (Philippians 2:14-16)

Congregation: WS 710: Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
3. But our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.



4. Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound.

CONCLUSION:

SEE CHRISTMAS THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

Grades 5-8: Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. (Galatians 4:3)

Grade 4: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ... (Galatians 4:4)

Grade 3: ... to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as SONS. (Galatians 4:5)

Grades K-2: Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; ... (Joel 2:23)

Children: Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! ... (1 John 3:1) As God saw Christmas through the Child's eyes of grace, may your Christmas be blessed as you yourself



A Child is Born!

SEE CHRISTMAS THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

Children:.....Sing Aloud on This Day!

1. Sing aloud on this day! Children all raise the lay.
Cheerfully we and they Hasten to adore Thee, Sent from highest glory,
For us born, born, born, For us born, born, born,
For us born on this morn Of the Virgin Mary.
2. Now a Child He is born, Swathing bands Him adorn,
Manger bed, He'll not scorn, Ox and ass are near Him; We as Lord revere Him,
And the vain, vain, vain, And the vain, vain, vain,
And the vain powers of hell Spoiled of prey now fear Him.
4. All must join Him to praise; Men and boys voices raise
On this day of all days; Angel voices ringing, Christmas tidings bringing.
Join we all, all, all, Join we all, all, all,
Join we all, 'Gloria In excelsis' singing.

Grace Lutheran Church & School

It is a joy and privilege to come worship the Newborn Child this blessed evening. We celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus tonight because He in love came to redeem all children of men with the intent that they become children of God.

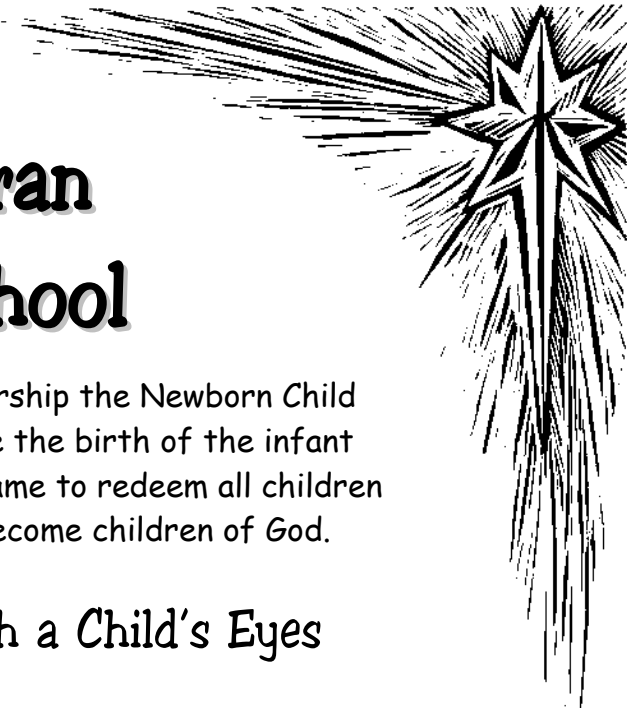
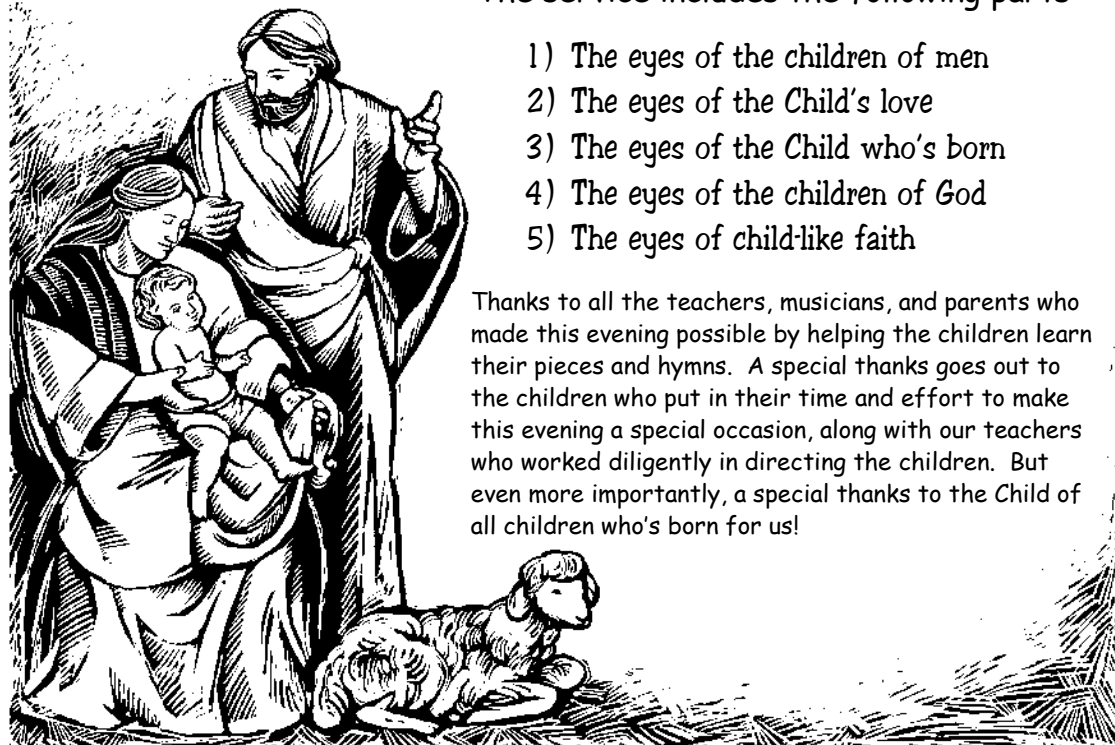
This evening's service invites us to

See Christmas Through a Child's Eyes

The service includes the following parts:

- 1) The eyes of the children of men
- 2) The eyes of the Child's love
- 3) The eyes of the Child who's born
- 4) The eyes of the children of God
- 5) The eyes of child-like faith

Thanks to all the teachers, musicians, and parents who made this evening possible by helping the children learn their pieces and hymns. A special thanks goes out to the children who put in their time and effort to make this evening a special occasion, along with our teachers who worked diligently in directing the children. But even more importantly, a special thanks to the Child of all children who's born for us!



Offering:..... Interlude

Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction:

Recessional Hymn:.....CW 61: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

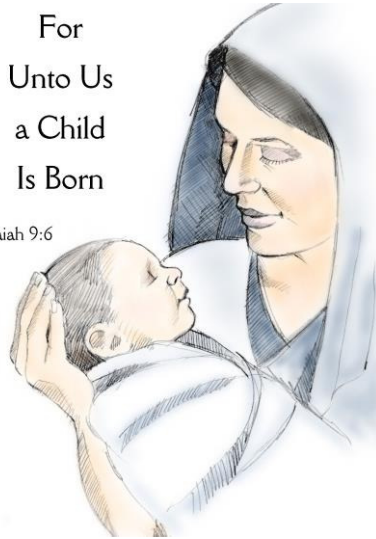
Congregation: Stanzas 2 & 3; Children: Stanza 1

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye 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!"
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 man to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**
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 leaves His throne on high,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" Amen.**



For
Unto Us
a Child
Is Born

Isaiah 9:6



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