

For God
SO LOVED
the world



*Welcome to St. John's
Children's Christmas Program
2025*

God So Loved the World

Based on "God So Loved the World," a Children's Christmas Service From CPH

Congregation sings: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful LSB 379

Nicholas: God's love once again permits us to hear the old but ever new story of Christmas. We are pleased to present it to you from scripture in song and recitation. It is the story of the birthday of the promised Savior, Jesus, who is God's Christmas gift of love to all the world.

On that first Christmas night so long ago, the angels and the shepherds worshipped Him as He lay cradled in a manger. Today we who by faith know Him as our Savior, once again kneel in spirit at the same manger. May God the Holy Spirit fill our hearts and sanctify our lips as we come before His presence with thanksgiving and sing praises to His holy name.

**Congregation sings: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
(verses 1-2) LSB 357**

Lauren: We rejoice today because we are celebrating the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Because Jesus was born, there can be peace and gladness in the hearts of men. Jesus brought true happiness by saving us from sin, death, and the devil. All men needed to be saved because our first parents, Adam and Eve, fell into sin. Sin is breaking God's holy Law. The bible says: "There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," Romans 3: 22 and 23. St. Paul tells us: "The wages of sin is death," Romans 6:23.

Kassidy: In spite of our sins, God loves us and wants all men to be saved. The bible tells us that “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life,” John 3:16.

God showed his love first to Adam and Eve. For he promised them a savior shortly after they had fallen into sin. In his first gospel promise, God warned the devil: “I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel,” Genesis 3:15.

Speaking of the coming Savior, God said to Abraham in Genesis 22:18:

Kaysley: “In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice,”

Cale: Through Moses God promised: “The Lord, your God, will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to Him you shall listen—,” Deuteronomy 18:15.

Isaiah foretold the Virgin Birth when he wrote: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel,” Isaiah 7:14.

Isaiah further described the coming Savior when he said: “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,” Isaiah 9:6.

Sam: Isaiah also prophesied the suffering and death of Jesus when he said: “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed,”
Isaiah 53:4 and 5.

These are but a few of the glorious Old Testament promises which tell of God’s gift of love, Jesus. God used these promises to comfort His people of long ago, for they, too, needed a Savior from sin. And after all the prophets had, Christmas came to earth, and Christ was born just as the prophets had foretold.

Congregation sings: O Little Town of Bethlehem LSB 361

Colin: The real Christmas story is a joyful story. St. Luke tells it in the second chapter of his Gospel.

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.”

Congregation sings: Silent Night LSB 363

Ben: “And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them,

Annabell: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Ben: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Ben: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Shepherds: “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Ben: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

This simple, beautiful story brings true joy and happiness to men wherever it is told and believed, for it shows God's perfect love for sinful men. Let us now join the shepherds in humble worship of the Christ Child as we sing.

"Away in a Manger" (Children sing)

Marcus: Throughout this wonderful gift of God's love we have received all spiritual blessings: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Jesus saved us from our sins by perfectly fulfilling the law for us and by suffering and dying in our stead. Our final glory as God's children is that he will take us home to himself in heaven, to live with him forevermore.

Les: Jesus himself has promised this to us for he says: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand," John 10:27 and 28.

Nora: This glory of God's love which makes us his children through faith in Jesus, our savior, prompts us to walk with him. That is why we are so eager to serve him and to sing his praises.

Lauryn Reads, Kassidy Leads: Actions by Younger Children

Two little eyes to look to God.
Two little ears to hear His Word,
Two little feet to walk His way,
Hands to serve Him all my days.
One little tongue to speak His truth,
One little heart for Him in youth.
Take them, O Jesus, let them be
Always willing, true to Thee.

Christian: The Christmas gospel tells us that after the shepherds had worshipped Jesus, they told others about what they had seen and heard. They were so happy over finding their savior that they wanted all the world to know about it. Like the shepherds we too tell others that we have found our highest joy in Jesus Christ, our savior. We gladly tell others about our savior, because, like Peter and John, we cannot but speak of the things that we have seen and heard.

Isabelle: We pray that the message of our newborn savior has brought joy and gladness to all of you, that your lives will be blessed with the peace which comes from the heavenly Christ child, and that throughout the coming year you will find joy in the humble worship and willing service of our savior. We wish you, one and all a very happy Christmas and a truly blessed new year.

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” (Children sing)

Pastor: Let us rise for The 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.

Pastor: Go in God's peace, the joy of the Son's birth, and the love of the Spirit.

Pastor: Announcements

Congregation sings: Joy to the World LSB 387