

# A Guide for Christmas Eve at Home

*Today we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Though we may not be in the same building, we get to celebrate together as a church family. Christ is the light of the world. This light shines in the darkest parts of our lives and our world so that we might see. This Guide for Christmas Eve at Home is intended to help you be more aware of this great and holy light. Grab a journal or a handful of loved ones, light a candle to represent the light of Christ, and enjoy this time of prayer, reflection, and worship.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only son into the world so that we might live through him. In the darkness of our real world shines God's holy light. Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

## **PRAY**

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we come to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

## **SING O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

### **READ ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7**

9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **REFLECT WITH YOUR LOVED ONES OR IN A JOURNAL**

- In what ways is a candle a good metaphor for Christ?
- In what ways have you seen the light of Christ in your life this week?

### **SING HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

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 hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

### **READ LUKE 2:1-20**

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 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 see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **SING SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

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.

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!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**BENEDICTION**

Hear the good news, the true light that enlightens all has come into the world. This undimmable light shines into the darkness. Now share this light everywhere that you go. Merry Christmas. Go in peace and joy. Amen.