



# **Let There Be Light**

**A Jesus Cares Christmas Service**

## ***Let There Be Light: A Jesus Cares Ministries Christmas Service***

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To God be the glory!

**Overview:** This service is excellent for all student ability levels. Each student needs a light stick on a string around his or her neck. Spotlights are used to enhance the service.

Each student should be dressed in a white cape made from a 2' x 3' foot piece of fabric with a slit cut at the neck for the head. To ensure that these capes will fit everyone, the sides should not be sewn together. The light stick can be worn under the white cape. After presenting the resurrection, or at any point you wish, the students may take out their light sticks and use them for the rest of the program.

Shining spotlights on the students (be careful not to blind them) makes their outfits glow at certain times. Additional spotlights can light up the nativity scene, the cross in front, and the like when appropriate during the service. Keep the church and tree dark when presenting man's fall into sin and Jesus' death.

The suggested songs are taken from five sources:

*Christian Worship*

*Christian Worship Supplement*

*Everyone Sing & Sign*

*Let All the People Praise You*

*All God's People Sing*

The first four of these books are available from Northwestern Publishing House, <[www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net)>. *All God's People Sing* is available from Concordia Publishing House.

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# Let There Be Light

♪ **Students sing:** “Jesus Loves Me,” stanza 1 (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House)

**Pastor:** Christmas is this month. We hear Christmas music in the stores. We see decorations in the stores and in our houses. We have been singing Christmas carols. Why is everyone so excited about Christmas? Let us tell you the story from the Bible that will tell us that Jesus is the light of the world. We will also tell you about other places in the Bible that speak about light.

**All students:** God made the world. The first words God said were, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good.” Genesis chapter 1, verses 3 and 4.

*Bring up lights.*

♪ **Students sing:** “This is the Day” by Garrett (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House)

**Student:** God made the world in six days. He rested on the seventh day.

♪ **Students sing:** “My God Is So Great,” stanza 1 (*Everyone Sing & Sign*, Northwestern Publishing House)

**Student:** But the world did not stay bright and happy. Adam and Eve fell into sin. This was a very sad and dark time.

*Reduce lights.*

**All students:** Sin made the world into a dark place.

**Pastor:** Since then all people have been sinners. Our natural hearts are dark with sin and death. But God loves us, and he had a plan to bring light into a dark world.

**Student:** God told Adam and Eve that he would send a Savior. Now the future seemed much brighter.

*Bring up lights.*

**Pastor:** So for thousands of years all God’s people waited for the Savior to be born. Many times people fell away from God and forgot about God. This was a very dark time.

*Reduce lights.*

**Student:** Many prophets reminded God’s people that a Savior was coming.

**Student:** The prophet Isaiah said in the ninth chapter of his book, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.”

*Bring up lights partially.*

**Students and congregation:** The prophet Isaiah also said in the ninth chapter, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on

his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

*Bring up lights more, but not fully.*

🎵 **Students sing:** “His Name is Wonderful” (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House)

**Pastor:** After many years, the angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her that she was going to have a baby. Her baby would be Jesus, the Savior of the world. In Luke 1:30-32 the angel said, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son.

**Student:** “You are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.” Mary was very happy. She knew that her baby’s Father was God.

**Student:** The virgin Mary was engaged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph.

**Student:** God sent an angel to appear to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph that he should take Mary for his wife. He told Joseph that the father of Mary’s baby was God. He said that Mary would have a son and that his name would be Jesus.

**Student:** Jesus would save the people from their sins.

**Student:** So Joseph did as the angel said and got married to Mary.

**Student:** Jesus would soon be born. And God had a plan to get Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.

**Congregation:** “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.” Luke chapter 2, verses 1 through 5.

🎵 **Congregation sings:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” stanzas 1 and 4 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 65)  
*Raise lights in stanza 4 when singing “Christmas angels.”*

**Congregation:** “While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke chapter 2, verses 6 and 7.

🎵 **Students sing:** “Away in a Manger,” stanzas 1-3 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 68)

**Student:** Some shepherds were out in the field watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared and spoke to them.

**Student:** “Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

**Congregation:** “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke chapter 2, verses 11 and 12.

**All students:** Many angels appeared and sang this song: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to [all people].” Luke chapter 2, verse 14.

*Make lights bright.*

🎵 **Students and congregation sing:** “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*Christian Worship*, hymn 63)  
*Students sing stanza 1 and refrains. Congregation sings stanzas 2 and 3 and the refrains that follow those stanzas.*

**Congregation:** “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’

“So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” Luke chapter 2, verses 15 through 20.

🎵 **Students and congregation sing:** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (*Christian Worship*, hymn 57)  
*Students sing stanza 1 and refrains. Congregation sings stanzas 2 and 3 and the refrains that follow those stanzas. If possible, add more light when singing “shone a holy light.”*

**Pastor:** Jesus grew up and became a man. He had many followers and especially twelve disciples. He did many miracles and even raised dead people. He healed many sick people, and he fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fishes.

**Student:** Jesus preached his Word to many people.

🎵 **Students sing:** “Thy Word Is a Lamp” (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House)

**All students:** Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

*Take out the light sticks that were previously under the students’ capes and turn them on.*

🎵 **Students sing:** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light,” stanza 1 (*Christian Worship Supplement*, hymn 771)

**Pastor:** When God’s time had come, Jesus went up to Jerusalem to die for our sins. Jesus’ disciples, his mother Mary, and other women who followed him

were very sad when they saw Jesus suffer so much. It was hard for them to see Jesus nailed on a cross to die for our sins.

**Student:** When Jesus died the world turned very dark for three hours.

*Lower the lights.*

**Student:** Jesus was buried, and there was only darkness in the grave.

**Pastor:** But on the third day a wonderful thing happened.

**All students:** Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

*Raise the lights partially.*

**Student:** An angel in bright white came down to announce that Jesus had risen.

*Make the lights even brighter.*

🎵 **Students sing:** “Open Our Eyes, Lord” (*All God’s People Sing*, Concordia Publishing House)

**Pastor:** The angel was so bright that the guards around the grave fell down as though they were dead. But they weren’t dead.

🎵 **Students sing:** “Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks,” stanzas 1 and 2 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 154)  
*Students wave light sticks while singing.*

**Pastor:** Jesus told his followers to let their light shine before men. This means that as we follow Jesus, when others watch us and listen to us, they will know that we are Jesus’ followers.

**Congregation and students:** “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew chapter 5, verses 14 through 16.

🎵 **Students sing:** “This Little Gospel Light of Mine” (*Everyone Sing & Sign*, Northwestern Publishing House)  
*Students wave light sticks while singing.*

**Congregation:** “God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” First John chapter 1, verses 5 through 7.

**All students:** God is light.

🎵 **Students sing:** “Shine, Jesus, Shine,” refrain (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House)

**Pastor:** Jesus is everywhere. Jesus is with each of us here tonight. Jesus will come again to take us and all believers in him to heaven. Until Jesus comes

again, Paul tells us in Philippians 2:15,16 that Jesus uses us as an example to others. He says we “shine like stars in the universe as [we] hold out the word of life.”

♪ **Students sing:** “We Are Singing,” refrain (*Christian Worship Supplement*, hymn 732)

**Student:** Because Jesus is the light of the world, we use light in many ways in our churches. We light candles at every service. At Christmas we have many lights on our trees. We have a special candle that we light at baptisms and during the Easter season.

**All students:** Thank you, Jesus, for being the light of the world.

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. *(If possible, make the lights brighter when the pastor says “make his face shine on you.”)*

♪ **Students and congregation sing:** “Silent Night! Holy Night,” stanzas 1-3 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 60)