



What Is His Name?

A Jesus Cares Christmas Service

What Is His Name: A Jesus Cares Ministries Christmas Service

Written by Jeanne Aeschliman

Edited by Jane Mose

To God be the glory!

Overview: This service is excellent for all student ability levels. The many names of Jesus are talked about. The students say in unison many times, "What is his name?" If the student recitations/readings are too challenging for your students, the pastor or Jesus Cares Ministries volunteers can be narrators. The gradual decorating of the tree keeps the students' interest.

Props: Eight large ornaments, possibly cut from plywood, as follows:

heart (a heart tree-topper may be substituted)

cross with the name Savior on it

circle with picture of Jesus and a child on it

rectangle with the name Jesus on it

staff

star

lamb

crown

You will also need a string lights on the tree in the shape of a cross. This string is hidden until the end of the service. You can have extra lights to hide the cross or wait to turn on the cross until the end. Instead of one star ornament, many stars can be used to fill up the tree.

The suggested songs are taken from two sources:

Christian Worship

Let All the People Praise You

Both of these books are available from Northwestern Publishing House,
<www.nph.net>.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com.

JCM Media
Belle Plaine, Minnesota
Toll Free: 1-888-600-TLHA (8542)
Telephone: (952) 873-6000
Website: www.tlha.org

JCM Media is a service of Jesus Cares Ministries, a ministry of The Lutheran Home Association based in Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

In all of your advertisement fliers, service folders, and any printed publications please include the following:

Copyright © 2011 by JCM Media, Belle Plaine, MN. All rights reserved.

What Is His Name?

Students enter as bells ring.

Introduction by pastor:

The season of Christmas is here. Homes and Christmas trees are being decorated. Stores have put up displays. Gifts are being bought and wrapped carefully. But in our busy preparations, we must ask ourselves a question: Are our hearts ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior? Do we open them wide to listen, to worship, and to love our Savior?

Tonight we are going to decorate a Christmas tree to honor our Savior. We are going to listen to our Savior tell us from his Word the story of his many precious names. We, through the Holy Spirit, are going to open our hearts to Jesus. Because having Jesus in our hearts is the most important part of Christmas, we place a heart at the top of the tree.

Student puts a heart ornament (or tree topper) on the tree, as close to the top as possible.

♪ **Congregation sings:** "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (*Christian Worship*, hymn 358)

Part One: Savior

Pastor: Our story begins with Adam and Eve. One day they listened to Satan and disobeyed God. That was when sin began to fill the world. A huge gap opened between God and all people. All were lost and condemned to eternal punishment. But God's love is great. He promised to send a Savior. The Savior would rescue Adam and Eve and all people born since that time. Throughout the Old Testament God told about the Savior who would come.

Student: The Savior would live for us. He would die for us. He would rise from the dead for us.

Student: King David called out to God and said, "You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior." Psalm 89, verse 26.

Pastor: Isaiah, the prophet, wrote, "I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior." (Isaiah 43:11) All believers cherished the news of the coming Savior in their hearts. So we place the name *Savior* on our tree.

Student puts the Savior ornament on the tree.

♪ **Students and congregation sing:** "Joy to the World" (*Christian Worship*, hymn 62)
Students may sing stanza 1 and the congregation sing stanzas 2 and 3.

Part Two: Wonderful Counselor

Student: I have a Savior!

All students: What is his name?

Student: His name is Wonderful Counselor.

Pastor: Our story continues with the prophet Isaiah. Long before the Savior was born Isaiah told us the name, Wonderful Counselor. Isaiah said, "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." (Isaiah 9:6)

Student: But what is a counselor?

Pastor: A counselor tells us what we should or shouldn't do.

Student: Our Savior tells us what to do in the Bible.

Pastor: Yes, he teaches us how to live. His advice is perfect.

Student: We can talk to him anytime. He will always listen and help us.

Pastor: Our ornament shows Jesus talking to a child. We place it on the tree to show that he is our Wonderful Counselor.

Student puts the Jesus and child ornament on the tree.

| |
|--|
| <p>🎵 Students sing: "His Name Is Wonderful" (<i>Let All the People Praise You</i>, Northwestern Publishing House)</p> |
|--|

Part Three: Jesus

Student: I have a Savior.

All students: What is his name?

Student: His name is Jesus.

Pastor: Our story now takes us to a town in Galilee called Nazareth. A young lady named Mary lived there. Mary was not married. She had promised to become the wife of a man named Joseph. Joseph and Mary were relatives of King David.

Student: The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored."

Student: Mary was afraid. She wondered what the angel's words meant.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: "He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Student: Mary wondered how this could be since she was not married.

Pastor: The angel Gabriel told her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Student: Mary said, “I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

♪ **Congregation sings:** “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come,” stanzas 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 38)

Student: I know a long name.

All students: What is it?

Student: It is Caesar Augustus.

Students: Who was he?

Pastor: He was like a president over the entire Roman world at the time Jesus was born. He wanted everyone to be counted. Do you know what he did?

Student: Yes, he wrote a law.

Pastor: That’s right. Everyone had to go to the town where their relatives had first lived. Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. Do you know why?

Student: That was the town where King David had been born.

Pastor: We must remember that Mary was soon going to have a child. The journey was hard for her. We all know what happened next.

Student: While they were in Bethlehem it became time for the baby to be born.

Student: But Mary and Joseph could find no place to stay. The inn was full of people. They finally found room in a stable.

Pastor: It was in the stable that the baby was born. The baby was a son, just as the angel had said. Mary wrapped the child in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. Jesus had come into the world! He came to save us from our sins. That makes our hearts happy. So, with happy hearts we place the name of Jesus on our tree.

Student puts the “name of Jesus” ornament on the tree.

♪ **Students and congregation sing:** “What Child Is This,” stanzas 1-3 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 67)
Women may sing stanza 1, men sing stanza 2, and all sing stanza 3.

Part Four: Good Shepherd

Student carrying a staff: I have a Savior.

All students: What is his name?

Student carrying a staff: His name is Good Shepherd.

Student: What are you carrying?

Student carrying a staff: I am carrying a staff.

Student: What is it for?

Student carrying a staff: Well, that's part of the story.

Pastor: At the time of Jesus' birth, and long before, many men were shepherds. The life of a shepherd was not easy. In Judea shepherds led their flocks to distant pastures and watering places. They called to their sheep in a strange language. The sheep hurried to follow the shepherd.

Shepherds and sheep had a close relationship. Any sheep could recognize its master's voice. The shepherd led the sheep to food and water. If a sheep fell into a rocky ditch or hole, the shepherd used his staff to pull the sheep to safety.

Student: Later, in his ministry, Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd.

Pastor: Hear Jesus speak in John 10:14: "I am the good shepherd: I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Student: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He provides everything we need. He protects us from all harm and danger. He laid down his life for us on the cross. Because of all this we place a staff on our tree.

Student puts the staff ornament on the tree.

Student: Please join us in saying Psalm 23.

All students and congregation:

The LORD is my shepherd. I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

♪ **Students sing:** "To Shepherds as They Watched by Night," stanzas 1 and 2
(*Christian Worship*, hymn 53)

Student: How fitting that lowly shepherds were told first of Jesus' birth!

Pastor: They were watching their flocks during the still, cold night. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them. The dark night around them became bright as the glory of the Lord shone. The shepherds were terrified!

Student: The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. The news will be for all people. Today, in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

Pastor: "You will find the baby wrapped in cloths. He will be lying in a manger." Then the sky was filled with angels. They were praising God and saying,

All students: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Pastor: What a magnificent sight that was! When the angels left, the shepherds quickly decided to go to Bethlehem. They wanted to see our Savior and worship him. There, in a stable, they found Mary and Joseph with the baby. The baby was lying in a manger.

The shepherds worshiped Jesus. When they left, they told everyone they met that the Savior had been born. Everyone who heard it was amazed. Mary treasured these things and thought about them in her heart. We pray that all of you will also treasure this story in your hearts always.

🎵 **Students sing:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem," stanza 1 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 65)

Part Five: Bright Morning Star

Student is holding a star ornament.

Student: What a beautiful star you have!

Pastor: It reminds us of the next part of our story. I have a Savior.

All students: What is his name?

Pastor: His name is Bright Morning Star. Our story first takes us back to the Old Testament. In the book of Numbers, chapter 24, verse 17, the Spirit of God led Balaam to say these words as he blessed Israel. "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel." Do you know who that star would be?

All students: Jesus.

Pastor: That's right. Why would Jesus be called a star?

Student: Jesus is bright and beautiful like the stars in the sky. Jesus is the light of the world. He lights up our lives with goodness. He lights the way to heaven. He lights our way in this dark world of sin.

Pastor: Very good. In the book of Revelation, Jesus says, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

Student: What a good name for our Savior. He will guide us by his light to heaven.

Pastor: As the star is placed on our tree we will sing a special song about the name *Bright Morning Star*.

Student puts a star ornament on the tree.

♪ **Students sing:** “Shine, Jesus, Shine,” stanzas 1-3 (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House)

Pastor: When Jesus was born a special star shone in the sky. God had created the star. It did not look or act like other stars. Wise men from the east saw the star. These wise men studied the stars. They knew the star meant the Savior had been born. Because they believed, they began a long and dangerous journey. They wanted to find and worship Jesus. Their hearts were full of love for their Savior.

The wise men finally arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.

Student: When King Herod heard this he was upset. He called together the chief priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born.

Pastor: The chief priests and teachers answered, “In Bethlehem in Judea.” Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He told the wise men to report to him where they found the child. He said he also wanted to worship the newborn King.

Student: The wise men started out for Bethlehem. The star they had seen in the east guided them.

Pastor: The star led the wise men right to the home of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. The wise men were overjoyed! They entered the house. There they saw the child with his mother. They bowed down and worshiped their Savior. They gave him gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh.

God warned the wise men in a dream not to return to Herod. Herod's heart was full of evil. He meant to harm baby Jesus. So the wise men went home another way. Their hearts were full of joy and love. They had seen their Savior.

♪ **Students and congregation sing:** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (*Christian Worship*, hymn 61)

Part Six: Lamb of God

Student: I have a Savior.

All students: What is his name?

Student: His name is Lamb of God.

Student: Jesus was first called a lamb by the prophet Isaiah.

Pastor: That's right. Isaiah said, “He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.” When the first Passover was celebrated by the Israelites they were in Egypt. As a last plague God sent against the Egyptians, all the firstborn sons and animals were to be killed.

The Israelite families were to take a lamb from their flocks and kill it. It was to be perfect, without blemish. The blood of the lamb was to be smeared on the doorposts of the homes of the Israelites. The angel of death would see the blood and pass over their homes. The blood of the lamb saved them from death. This ritual was to be done every year from then on. It acted out what Jesus would someday do. His blood would save all people from their sins. Those who believed in the promise of the Lamb of God to come were saved.

About thirty years after Jesus was born he began his public ministry. One day John the Baptist saw Jesus walking toward him. He pointed to Jesus and said,

Student: “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

Pastor: Jesus is truly the Lamb of God. Even though he was perfect, his enemies sentenced him to die. He was nailed to a cross for our sins. He died for us. His blood saves us. As we place a lamb ornament on our tree we say with John, “Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Student puts a lamb ornament on the tree.

A musical interlude (bells, organ, etc.) may be played.

Part Seven: King of Kings

Pastor holds a crown ornament.

Student: Why do you have a crown?

Pastor: Because I have a Savior

All students: What is his name?

Pastor: His name is King of kings. Do you remember what Pontius Pilate asked Jesus when Jesus was on trial? He said, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Student: What did Jesus answer?

Pastor: He said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” Where is Jesus’ kingdom?

Student: In heaven.

Pastor: Yes, when Jesus died and was buried, the grave didn’t keep him there. He arose from the dead on Easter morning. He won the victory over sin, death, and the devil for us. All that he did makes him our King of kings! So let’s place a crown on our tree to remind us that Jesus rules over all things because he is our King of kings.

Student puts the crown ornament on the tree.

| |
|--|
| <p>♪ Congregation sings: “He Is Born, the Child Divine” (<i>Let All the People Praise You</i>, Northwestern Publishing House) <i>Students may accompany the song with rhythm instruments.</i></p> |
|--|

All students stand to face congregation.

Congregation: I have a Savior.

All students: What is his name?

Pastor: His name is Wonderful Counselor.

Congregation: He gives me perfect advice in his Word.

Pastor: His name is Jesus.

Congregation: He saves me from my sins.

Pastor: His name is Good Shepherd.

Congregation: He leads me and provides for me always.

Pastor: His name is Bright Morning Star.

Congregation: He lights my way to heaven.

Pastor: His name is Lamb of God.

Congregation: He was sacrificed for me to take away my sins.

Pastor: His name is King of kings.

Congregation: He rules over all the earth and waits for me in heaven.

Pastor: Our tree is complete.

The top and side lights of the church are turned off. One string of tree lights is unplugged, leaving the remaining string in the shape of a cross.

Pastor: The cross of Jesus lights our life for us. This is Jesus' story of the true Christmas. Come, let us adore him with the singing of our closing song.

♪ **Congregation sings:** "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful," stanzas 1, 2, and 6 (*Christian Worship*, hymn 55)