Light a Candle

A Christmas Service for Children and Adults

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The Prélude

Speaker (1): Light a candle on the altar,
Now our worship shall begin;
With a song let all here present
Call the other children in.
THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Oh, Come, Little Children (The Little Christian’s Songbook, p. 35)

Tune: IHR KINDERLEIN, KOMMET, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

1. Oh, come, little children, oh, 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 alleluias 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.

(As singing begins, the children proceed down the center aisle and take their places at the front of the church.)

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.
Pastor: The Lord has made known His Word. Alleluia!
Congregation: The Word of His salvation. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Pastor: The Lord established His covenant forever;
Congregation: He has sent redemption to His people:
Pastor: Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary’s Son!
Congregation: Oh, come, let us worship Him!
   Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
   as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
   Amen.

THE GREETING AND PRAYER
Speaker (2): We greet you, friends! We’re glad you came.
We welcome you in Jesus’ name.
We join with Christians everywhere
Who, at this time, their hearts prepare
To mark the birthday of God’s Son
And know the reason He has come.
So listen to the things we say,
And kindly join us when we pray,
And when we come upon a song
In which you are to sing along,
Let every heart and voice unite
With angels ’round the throne of light.

Congregation: May God the Father, Son, and Spirit
Grant faith that we may life inherit. Amen.

I. Candles of Prophecy
From the first book of the Bible to the last, we hear about the Light that God promised to send His people—the Messiah, who brings the gift of salvation through His birth as a human being, His perfect life, and His sacrificial death to pay for sin. God’s prophets bring a consistent message of hope for God’s people through the years.

THE HYMN The Children, Stanza 1
Of the Father’s Love Begotten (LSB 384)
The Congregation, Stanzas 2–5

Of the Father’s Love Begotten
Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, sts. 1–4, alt.;
        tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5
Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

1. Of the Father’s love begotten
   Ere the worlds began to be,
   He is Alpha and Omega,
   He the source, the ending He,
   Of the things that are, that have been,
   And that future years shall see
   Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed,
   When the virgin, full of grace,
   By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
   Bore the Savior of our race,
   And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3. This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

4. O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

Speaker (3): Light a candle on the altar,
Though its light be small and dim,
For the light that first was given
After Adam and Eve sinned:

Speaker (4): “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

Speaker (5): Light a candle on the altar
For the years that pass with speed,
Plainer now the plan unfolding:
One would come of Abram’s seed:

**Speaker (6):** Now the Lord said to Abram, . . . “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1, 3b)

**Speaker (7):** Light a candle on the altar,
Giving light a bit more clear,
For another Christmas promise
Of the star that would appear:

**Speaker (8):** “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.” (Numbers 24:17)

**Speaker (9):** Light a candle on the altar;
Still more brightly let it shine
For the prophecy foretelling
Christ would spring from David’s line:

**Speaker (10):** “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’” (Jeremiah 23:5, 6)

**THE HYMN**

**The Children and Congregation**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)**


Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, French, 15th cent.; setting: © 2011 Concordia Publishing House

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
   And ransom captive Israel,
   That mourns in lonely exile here
   Until the Son of God appear.

   **Refrain:**
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   Shall come to thee, O Israel!