



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IN GOD’S OWN WORDS

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IN GOD’S OWN WORDS

ITEMS NEEDED:

1. Candles for everyone.
2. Candle display on the communion table from which all of the other candles will be lit.
3. Two boxes at the rear of the auditorium to collect the candles at the end of the service.
4. Candles for the pulpit and piano to provide enough lighting for the readers/pianist.
5. Small flashlights on the pulpit for readings and also the sound technician.
6. Microphone at the pulpit for the readers.
7. Cordless microphone for special musicians.

Announcements. (Be sure everyone has a candle.)

Opening Prayer. (All lights to the entire auditorium are turned off including the Christmas decorations.)

SONG: O COME, O COME IMMANUEL – (auditorium is entirely dark.) (*No instruments.*)

Two ladies leave the front row and light the candles on the communion table at the front of the church. (These candles

include a large “*Christ*” candle on the communion table.) They also light the candles on the pulpit as well as the candles on the piano. The ladies then return to their seats.

Reading by the Pastor: A brilliant young lawyer had just begun his practice. It appeared to everyone as if he was destined for a great future. But suddenly he was taken ill. It so happened that he became ill on a very bright, sunshiny day.

His father was called to his bedside. The father entered the young lawyer’s room and noticed the sunshine was pouring through the window. The sunshine was brilliantly lighting the young lawyer’s room.

The young lawyer took his father’s hand and said, “*Father, how dark it is. The sky is so black. There must be a terrific storm coming.*” With those words he then passed out into the darkness – totally alone.

The same can be said about all of us, too, because we, too, have been born into a world of darkness...of spiritual darkness...of moral darkness...

Someone has rightly said, “*If there is one thing I need the most for Christmas it is someone to poke holes in the darkness of this world for me. Oh, this world is so dark!*”

Is there then any hope for us? We come tonight to ask that and other questions to God and to allow God to answer our questions in His own words.

I. **Narrator:** We come first of all to ask, *what is that light?* What is the light of Christmas all about? _____ has God's answer for our question.

Reading by _____: John 1:1-9.

SONG: JESUS IS THE LIGHT BY _____

II. **Narrator:** What is the light that you and I need? It is the light of heaven in the person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We come next to a second question. *Where did that light begin to shine?* _____ has the answer.

Reading: Luke 2:1-7.

SONG: _____ WILL SING, "BIRTHDAY OF A KING"

III. **Narrator:** Questions 1 and 2 have answers but what about our third question? Question #3 asks, *Why did the light come to this dark world of ours?* _____ has the answer.

Reading: John 3:16-21, 8:12.

SONG: FOR GOD SO LOVED BY _____

IV. **Narrator:** The light shines because God is interested in you and me finding our way back to Him. All of this is great to know but none of that changes our lives until we answer the fourth and final question. **Who can come to this light?** Two people will come to share God's answer with us.

- Reading by _____ begins with him saying, “The first person who can come to this light is the sinner who has broken God’s holy law. That happened to me on (date of his salvation). Listen to what happened in my life. **(Reads John 6:37-40)**.
 - SONG: HEAVEN CAME DOWN AND GLORY FILLED MY SOUL (all three verses then the chorus with the special ending).
- Reading by _____ “The second person who can come to this light is the child of God who has walked away from God. It is true that God never leaves us but we sometimes leave Him. But God reaches out to us even then. The Bible says **(Read I John 1:5-9)**.

Narrator: Would you bow your heads with me? I wonder tonight: Is there room in your heart for the light of life, for the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you made room for Him? Have you received Him? If you have never made room for Him before, won’t you say now,

*‘Come in, my Lord, come in,
And make my heart Thy home.
Come in and cleanse my soul from sin,
And dwell with me alone.’*

Would you like to give your heart to Jesus Christ and have His light shine in your own heart? If the answer is yes then tonight can be your night! Let me lead you in praying to Jesus. Just say these words with all of your heart and repeat after me.

INVITATION: THE SAVIOR IS WAITING

Narrator: We will now light our own candle. Our ladies will light the candle on the end of each row. Please light the candle of the person next to you until all of the candles in your row are lit.

(Instructions: The ladies will light their own candles from the large candle in the center of the display. They will proceed to light the candles on the end of each row. The ladies will then be seated near the back so they can collect the candles as everyone leaves.)

We are now going to sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns without the piano. At some point I will raise my candle into the air in tribute to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please raise your candle at the same time.

- *Silent Night* - vs 1, 4
- *Away in a Manger* - vs 1
- *Joy to the World* - vs 1, 4
- *O Come All Ye Faithful* – vs 1, 3 (***Raise your candle high into the air as you begin verse three***).

Extinguish candles.

Narrator: In just a moment we will be dismissed. Please take your candle to the rear of the church and put it in the box. May God bless you during this holiday season.

Dismissal prayer. (Lights are turned on during the prayer.)