



# WORSHIP

resources for worship

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# December 24/25, 2019: CHRISTMAS EVE-DAY, A/B/C

**Color:** White and Gold

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#) (Light shines: a child is born for us)

[Psalm 96](#) (Let the heavens and the earth be glad)

[Titus 2:11-14](#) (The grace of God has appeared)

[Luke 2:1-20](#) (The Birth of Jesus: God with us)

**Themes:** Light, Praise, Joy, Love, Incarnation

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information regarding writers, composers, alternate and associated texts and tunes, corresponding hymn numbers, and more. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts.

[Angels We Have Heard on High](#) (GLORIA)

[Away in a Manger](#) (MUELLER, CRADLE SONG)

[Hark! The Herald Angels Sing](#) (MENDELSSOHN)

[Joy to the World](#) (ANTIOCH)

[O Come, All Ye Faithful](#) (ADESTE FIDELES)

[On Christmas Night All Christians Sing](#) (SUSSEX CAROL)

[What Child Is This](#) (GREENSLEEVES)

[The First Nowell](#) (THE FIRST NOWELL)

Before/During Prayer/Lighting of Christ Candle

[Emmanuel, Emmanuel](#) (MCGEE)

[Fairest Lord Jesus](#) (CRUSADER'S HYMN aka ST. ELIZABETH) -- Stanza 1 (see below)

At Communion

[Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence](#) (PICARDY)

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## ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

### Before the Marvel of This Night - M

Carl Schalk  
Augsburg Fortress, 0800646037  
SATB, Organ

### Night of Silence - E

Daniel Kantor, quoting "Silent Night"  
GIA Publications, G-2760  
Unison, Keyboard  
\*consider the John Ferguson arrangement for Mixed  
Voices, Piano, Organ & optional instruments. G-4466

### How Far Is It to Bethlehem - E

English Carol, Alice Parker and Robert Shaw, arr.  
SATB, a cappella  
Lawson-Gould (Alfred): 00-LG51017

### Still, Still, Still - E

Trad. Austrian Carol, Mack Wilberg, arr.  
Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780193869271  
2-Part Mixed, Piano (4 hands) or strings

### Nativity Carol - M

John Rutter  
Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780193429703  
(also in *Carols for Choirs 2*, OUP)  
SATB or SSA, Organ

### Child of My Heart - E

Trad. Scottish; Marty Haugen, arr.  
GIA Publications, G-3804  
Unison, keyboard, opt. C-instrument

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## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

### Week 3

(Isaiah 9:2, 6)

*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.*

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,  
**Come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord, Emmanuel.**

For a child, has been born for us.  
**Jesus: the realization of every heart's hope,**  
the establishment of justice and everlasting peace,  
**the imagination and spirit of perfect joy,**  
and the full measure of God's eternal love.

*~ candle is lit ~*

Sing:  
**Fairest Lord Jesus,  
Ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down,  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all. The second staff continues: na - ture, O thou of God to \_\_\_\_\_. The third staff continues: earth come down, thee will I. The fourth staff continues: cher - ish, thee will I hon - or, thou, and the fifth staff concludes: my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.

TEXT: Münster Gesangbuch, 1667, trans.  
*Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850.  
MUSIC: Silesian folk melody.

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*And at night we win to the ancient inn  
Where the child in the frost is furled,  
We follow the feet where all souls meet  
At the inn at the end of the world.*

--G.K. CHESTERTON (1874-1936)

+ +

*Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
heaven in earth and God in man.  
Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.*

-- RICHARD CRASHAW (1613-1649)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God,  
and to give thanks and praise  
for the birth of Jesus.  
**We gather to praise God,  
and to reflect the light of the world.**  
The grace of God has appeared  
bringing the salvation to all.  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

### GATHERING PRAYER

*O Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us  
to kneel in wonder at the meeting of heaven and earth.  
For today, the soles of your feet have touched the earth.  
Accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,  
our Savior and our eternal God. Amen.*

*(After The Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland)*

## LITANY

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
**for his love revealed in the Word made flesh --**  
and on earth peace, among those whom he favors!

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
**coming among us and sharing our humanity --**  
and on earth peace, among those whom he favors!

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
**filling Mary with the life of the Divine --**  
and on earth peace, among those whom he favors!

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
**for the gifts of salvation and joy --**  
and on earth peace, among those whom he favors!  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## RESPONSE AFTER SCRIPTURE

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to all people on earth.**  
Glory to God in the lowest  
**and peace to all people on earth.**  
This is the word, the Good News of God!  
**Alleluia.**