A Seasonal All Age Worship Service

(SAAW028)

Christmas Day:

The Celebration of Christ coming to earth

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ALL AGE WORSHIP RESOURCES.ORG

CHRISTMAS DAY: THE CELEBRATION OF CHRIST COMING TO EARTH

Service Aim:

To enable all ages to interact with the Christmas story and to celebrate!

Biblical Reference(s):

Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 7:14

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Include opening Bible verse Luke 2:10b-11. Introduce the word **CHRISTMAS** that you will be unpacking through the service
C:	**C = Celebration** of the coming of Christ to the world. • Opening response, light Christmas candle
Opening carols:	Opening carols (See Appendix 1)
H:	**H = Holly.** One way we celebrate is decorating homes / church… • Decorate the Vicar or other leader
R:	**R = Remember** the truth - special baby was born– Jesus
Bible story:	Luke 2:1-20 which is read or shown as video etc
R:	What animals are part of the story of Jesus? • R = **Remember** the truth that Jesus came to earth
Song:	Song of worship (See Appendix 1)
I:	100's of years before Jesus born the prophet Isaiah spoke
Bible Reading 1:	Isaiah 7:14
I:	**I = Immanuel** – Jesus came to be with us and show us what Father God is like. • Words describing Jesus' character placed in a crib
S:	**S = Son** of God. Match fathers and sons on a screen.
T:	**T = Town** What town were you born in? Where was Jesus born?
Song:	Song of worship (See Appendix 1)
M:	**M = Manger.** What is it?
A:	**A = Angels** who sang praises on the night Jesus was born
Bible Reading 2:	Luke 2:10-11
S:	**S = Saviour.** Jesus came to be our Saviour. • The angels brought a special message to the shepherds. • Why do we need a Saviour?
Confession:	
Prayers:	Pray through the word CHRISTMAS. End with The Lord's Prayer
Summary:	Summarize **CHRISTMAS** & set off party poppers!
Song(s):	Final Carol(s) (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	

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Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.
Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.
The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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Before the Service:

Before the service prepare 9 cards with the following letters on them: C, H, R, I, S, T, M, A, S. Make the cards as large as possible – at least A3 size so that they are visible to the congregation.

As people arrive for the service, hand out the cards to 9 different people. Tell them that you will be inviting them to come forward to display their letter at different points in the service.

Welcome:

Start with a bold announcement:

> *"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."* (Luke 2:10b-11)

Welcome everyone to the Christmas Day service: Then say:

C:

Today we are going to explore the story of Christmas using the 9 letters in the word Christmas. Can I invite the letter C to come forward? (The person with letter C faces the congregation with their letter).

C stands for Celebration.

- On Christmas Day we **celebrate** the true story of the coming of Christ into the world.
- So let's start our celebration by lighting our Christmas candle (if you have one). Who would like to come and light it? (The Candle is lit).
- The light of the candle reminds us that Jesus is present here with us as we celebrate.
- And now let's use some opening words:

  Lord Jesus, on the first Christmas Day,
  You came to us
  Lord Jesus, on this Christmas Day,
  Come to us
  And be at the centre of our celebrations.
  Amen

- We'll continue our celebration by singing our songs of worship.
  (Send person with letter C back to their seat)

Opening Carols:

Opening Carols as per Appendix 1. You may choose to sing a couple of carols.

H:

You will need a short set of Christmas lights, an extension lead so that the lights can be plugged in, some tinsel and other decorations for this talk.

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Can I invite the letter H to come forward? (The person with letter H faces the congregation with their letter).

H stands for Holly.

- We often use holly to decorate our homes as one of the ways that we celebrate Christ's coming into the world.

[We have many beautiful decorations around us in church today, and a big "thank you" to those of you who have decorated for us.]

But there is something, or rather someone else we can decorate today.
(Invite another service leader, church warden or children's leader to come forward.)

Children, who would like to come and help to decorate N? (Name of person)

- You have got one minute to make N look as Christmassy as possible, starting from now. (Children decorate person)

Comment on decorated person and send children back to their seats.

When Jesus came to earth 2000 years ago, do you think people decorated their homes to welcome Him?

- When we decorate our homes let's remember that it is to welcome Jesus.
  (Send person with letter H back to their seat)

R:

Let's move onto our next letter. Can I invite the letter R to come forward? (The person with letter R faces the congregation with their letter).

R stands for Remember the truth about Christmas

- We remember the truth that Jesus came to earth 2000 years ago, born as a baby, and sent to us by our loving Heavenly Father.

Now there are all sorts of weird traditions that have grown up around this true story that have nothing to do with the birth of Jesus.

- One of those traditions is reindeer which also begins with the letter R.

Now reindeer generally live in cold counties and so you won't find them in the warm country of Palestine, which is where Jesus was born!

- Let's hear the true story now and children, listen carefully so that you can tell me if there were any animals around at the time of Jesus' birth. (Send person with letter R back to their seat)

Bible Story:

The reading is Luke 2:1-20. This can be read straight from the Bible and works well in the CEV version. Alternatively you could use an animated version of the story.

You can find "The Lego Christmas Story HD" on the website "GoChatter."[1] You could read the story from the bible & use pictures to illustrate it from the website "Free Bible images."[2]

[1] GoChatter website can be found here: https://gochattervideos.com The Lego Christmas Story HD" can be found here: https://gochattervideos.com/downloads/the-lego-christmas-story/

[2] The Free Bible images website can be found here: https://www.freebibleimages.

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R:

Children, were there any animals around at the time of Jesus' birth? (Receive responses)

So, letter R - **Remember** the truth about Christmas that it is all about Jesus coming to earth as a baby, sent to us by our loving Heavenly Father.

- If you are able please stand as we worship Him again.

Song:

A song of worship as per Appendix 1

I:

Can I invite the letter I to come forward? (The person with letter I faces the congregation with their letter).

A very very long time before Jesus was born, a prophet called Isaiah said something very important about Jesus.

- Listen to this short Bible reading and see if you can hear an important word beginning with the letter I.

Bible Reading 1:

The reading is Isaiah 7:14. This short reading could be read by an adult or a young person.

I:

You will need the following words printed out on A4 card: Good, Loving, Kind, Faithful, Powerful, Holy, Just, Forgiving, Gracious, Patient. You will also need a crib (with a "baby" in it,) where there is room for you to lay the cards inside it.

Who can tell me what important word in the reading began with the letter I? (Receive responses)

- The word beginning with I is Immanuel,
- And so in our Christmas word:
- **I stands for Immanuel.**

Immanuel is not a word that we hear very often is it, but it means "God with us."

- Jesus is God Himself.
- In some amazing way, Jesus is both fully human and fully God.

One of the reasons that Jesus came to earth to live among us was to show us what God is actually like, which is what we are going to think about for a moment now.

Who would like to come and help me? (Children join you)

- As I read out a word that describes Jesus' character, would you like to put that word in the crib.

Jesus is good. (Child places card in the crib)

- Jesus is Loving,
- Jesus is Kind,
- Jesus is Faithful,
- Jesus is Powerful,
- Jesus is Holy,

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- Jesus is Just,
- Jesus is Forgiving,
- Jesus is Gracious,
- Jesus is Patient.

I'm sure that you can think of many other words to describe what Jesus is like.

- This is our God – the One we worship – our Immanuel – God with us. (Send children back to their seats)

S:

You will need to Prepare a PowerPoint slide (see Appendix 2) with pictures as follows. Down the left hand side you need pictures of three famous fathers labelled A, B and C for example:

A. King Charles
B. Kirk Douglas
C. Andy Farrell

Down the right hand side you need pictures of three famous sons that look like their fathers labelled 1,2,3 for example:

1. Owen Farrell
2. Prince William
3. Michael Douglas

See Appendix 2.

Can I invite the first letter S to come forward? (The person with letter S faces the congregation with their letter).

S stands for Son

- On the slide we are about to see we have pictures of some famous fathers and famous sons.
- We are going to see if you can match father and son. (Project slide with father and son pictures on it)

Have a quiz to see who can match the famous fathers and famous sons. Then say:

You can match father and son because the sons are like their fathers.

And now for the most famous people of all, but this time I don't have a picture for you to look at.

- Who is God the Father's son?
- Jesus is the Son of God, and as we said before, when we look at Jesus, the Son of God, we see what God the Father is like.
- So when we see that Jesus is kind, good, loving, just and so on, we know that Father God is the same.
- So our letter S reminds us that Jesus is the Son of God. (Send person with letter S back to their seat)

T:

Can I invite the letter T to come forward? (The person with letter T faces the congregation with their letter).

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T stands for Town

Who would like to tell me which town they were born in? (Receive 2-3 answers)

- The town that Jesus was born in is very important.
- Hundreds of years earlier a prophet called Michah said that this town would be where Jesus would be born. (Micah 5:2)
- That town's name is…altogether… "Bethlehem"

Please stand if you are able as we worship Jesus again in song. (Send person with letter T back to seat)

Song:

A song of worship as per Appendix 1

M:

Before we move onto our next letter let's see what you can remember so far:

- Our letter C in the word Christmas stands for **Celebration** - celebrating the true story of the coming of Christ into the world.
- Our letter H stands for **Holly –** reminding us that we put up decorations as part of our celebrations.
- Our letter R stands for **Remember the truth about Christmas** – that it is all about Jesus coming to earth as a baby.
- Our letter I stands for **Immanuel – Jesus is God with us**
- Our letter S stands for **Son – Jesus is God's son**
- Our letter T stands for **Town – Jesus was born in Bethlehem.**

Let's move onto our next letter. Can I invite the letter M to come forward? (The person with letter M faces the congregation with their letter).

M stands for Manger

- The Bible tells us that Jesus' mother, Mary, laid baby Jesus in a manger.
- Who can tell me what a manger is?

A manger is an animal's feeding trough that is filled with hay.

- How many mums here today have laid their newborn babies in an animal feeding trough?

Jesus, although He is the Son of God was not born in a palace, but in a place of poverty.

- He was born in a room of a house where animals were kept. (Send person with letter M back to seat)

Moving on, can I invite the letter A to come forward? (The person with letter A faces the congregation with their letter).

A:

A stands for Angels

- On the night that Jesus was born something really wonderful happened.
- Angels filled the sky singing praises to Jesus,
- but not only did the angels sing, they also brought a special message to shepherds who were looking after their flocks on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

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We heard that message at the very start of the service, but let's remind ourselves again of what they said as we have our next Bible reading. (Send person with letter A back to seat)

Bible Reading 2:

The Bible reading is Luke 2:10-11 and can be read by an adult or a child.

S:

So we come to our final letter of the word Christmas.

- Can I invite the second letter S to come forward? (The person with letter S faces the congregation with their letter).

S stands for Saviour.

Now we all know that the world now is in a mess as it was when Jesus was born.

- The reason the world is in a mess is because we human beings have chosen to do things our way instead of God's way.

The Bible calls this Sin. It is like we are all saying:

- **S**hove off God.
- **I**'m in charge.
- **N**o to your ways.

Sin breaks our relationship with God and there is nothing that we can do to fix it.

But, God the Father loves us so much that He sent Jesus to earth to restore our relationship with Him.

- That's why Jesus is called our Saviour.
- When Jesus grew up to be a man, He dealt with sin by giving up His life, but as we celebrate at Easter that wasn't the end of the story.

Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive today which is why we can celebrate His birth as our Saviour.

- Although we cannot see Him He is here among us, loving us and offering us life,
- so let's pray. (Send person with letter S back to seat)

Confession:

You may choose at this point to use the Church of England's Christmas confession prayer as below. Follow with an absolution prayer.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

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Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

Prayers

You may want to focus your prayers around the word CHRISTMAS with different people saying the different prayers as follows:

C – We **celebrate** today Lord Jesus the true story of your coming into the world.

H – Thank you that we can decorate our homes with **holly** and other decorations. May the Christmas lights remind us that you, Jesus, are the light of the world.

R – May we always **Remember** the wonderful truth of Christmas that you were willing to leave the glory of heaven to come to earth as a baby because you love us.

I – We praise you Jesus that you are our **Immanuel** – God with us, showing us what our Father in heaven is really like.

S – We honour you Jesus as the **Son** of the living God. Give us faith to truly believe and trust you.

T – Thank you Jesus for our Bibles where we discover prophets who said long before you arrived that the **town** where you were to be born would be Bethlehem. Help us to discover more about you as we read our Bibles.

M – Lord Jesus we are in awe of your humility that led to you being laid in a **manger** as a baby.

A – As the **angels** sang your praises at your birth, keep us singing your praises each day as we celebrate your goodness.

S – And Lord Jesus, thank you that you came to be our **Saviour,** to bring us forgiveness from our sins and freedom to know and serve you. May we grow in our relationship with you each day.
Amen.

End the prayers with the Lord's Prayer:

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Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Summary:

Summarize the word CHRISTMAS that you have unpacked through this service by inviting to the front the people who have held the letter cards. You could use party poppers at this point!

So as we come to the end of our Christmas service, let me invite up to the front the people who have held up the letter cards, and see if we can remember what each letter stands for.

- As you get a letter right, we'll let off a party popper to celebrate! (People holding the letters come to the front and form the word CHRISTMAS)

C stands for **Celebration** (Set off party popper!)
H stands for Holly (Set off party popper!)
R stands for Remember the truth about Christmas (Set off party popper!)
I stands for Immanuel (Set off party popper!)
S stands for Son (Set off party popper!)
T stands for Town (Set off party popper!)
M stands for Manger (Set off party popper!)
A stands for Angels (Set off party popper!)
S stands for Saviour (Set off party popper!)

Let's sing our final song. Please stand if you are able

Final Song:

Final carol as per Appendix 1.

Blessing:

You may like to end by saying something like:

As we come to the end of the service today, go out rejoicing that God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to be Your Saviour.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father,
the Son and
the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) Opening Carol(s). Ideas include:

- Come and join the celebration (Valerie Collison © 1972 High-Fye Music Ltd)
- Joy to the world the Lord has come (Isaac Watts)
- O come all ye faithful (John Francis Wade)
- Once in Royal David's city (Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, Henry John Gauntlett)
- See Him lying on a bed of straw (Michael Perry © 1965 Mrs B.Perry/Jubilate Hymns)

ii) Song of worship. Ideas include:

- Away in a manger (John Thomas McFarland, Martin Luther, William James Kirkpatrick)
- Born in the night (Geoffrey Ainger © 1964 Stainer & Bell Ltd)
- Lord you were rich beyond all splendour (F.Houghton)
- Mary had a little baby (Andy Silver © 1986 Andy Silver)
- Silent night, holy night (Joseph Mohr)
- Songs of gladness (Michael Perry © Michael Perry/Jubilate Hymns)
- You laid aside your majesty (Noel Richards © 1985 Thankyou Music)

iii) Song of Worship. Ideas include:

- From the squalor of a borrowed stable (Stuart Townend © 1999 Thankyou Music)
- Immanuel O Immanuel (Graham Kendrick © 1988 Make Way Music)
- O little town of Bethlehem (Phillips Brooks)

iv) Final Carol(s). Ideas include:

- Angels from the realms of glory (J.Montgomery)
- Christmas, it's Christmas (Alan Price © 1995 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Hark the herald angels sing (Charles Wesley, George Whitefield)
- The first nowell (Patti Drennan)
- Unto us a boy is born (Puer Nobis nascitur © OUP)

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Appendix 2 – PowerPoint slide for Section “S” (Son)

Prepare a PowerPoint slide with 3 famous fathers and 3 famous sons who look similar.

Picture of Father A	A	1	Picture of Son C
Picture of Father B	B	2	Picture of Son A
Picture of Father C	C	3	Picture of Son B

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