

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Processional (Congregation): Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King:

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With th' angelic hosts proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

2. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,

Risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,

Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth. Refrain

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King.”

Pastor: Invocation and Introduction

Responsive Reading

P: Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

3. While thus they sing your monarch,

Those bright angelic bands,

Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,

Ye oceans, clap your hands.

Repeat the hymn again:

To God on high be glory

And peace on earth to men!

4. Since all He comes to ransom,

By all be He adored,

The Infant born in Bethl'em,

The Savior and the Lord.

Repeat the hymn again:

To God on high be glory

And peace on earth to men!

5. All idols then shall perish

And Satan's lying cease,

And Christ shall raise His scepter,

Decreeing endless peace.

Repeat the hymn again:

To God on high be glory

And peace on earth to men!

**Our celebration of the Savior's birth continues tomorrow
with our Christmas Day Song Service at 10:30 a.m.**

Sleep
in

Heavenly



*Can you find the manger? Love is in the manger.
God is waiting there for you.*

*Christ the Savior is born!
Can you find the manger? Love is in the manger.
Christ our Savior is born.*

Responsive Reading

P: Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth...And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth;

C: And this One shall be PEACE!

Recessional (Congregation): A Great and Mighty Wonder

***1. A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!***

***2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!***

All: And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

P: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

C: The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the everlasting Lord, the Wonderful, the Counselor, the God by all adored.

P: Gracious Lord God, as travelers in this sinful world, the search for peace seems like an impossible dream. We see unrest all around, in our country, in our schools and workplaces, and in our homes. Our minds are often filled with restless thoughts that rob our joy and happiness. Today our children present a message filled with your blessing of peace; peace that came to earth long ago in the Bethlehem manger. This was not an earthly peace, which is only fleeting, but heavenly peace that sets our hearts at rest. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts and show us the true peace between our perfect God and our sin-filled souls. Teach us to treasure the peace that is ours through the sacrifice of Jesus, our Savior and the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Children: Peace Came to Earth 4th-8th grade: all verses, K4-3rd grade: verses 1 and 4

*1. Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed His might-
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!*

*2. And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled-
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!*

3. *You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again-
Who could but see: Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!*

4. *How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise: Immanuel!*



A Once Peaceful Paradise

Owen: Close your eyes and picture the most peaceful thing that comes to mind. Maybe you are sitting in a boat on a calm lake. Maybe you are looking up into the star studded sky on a warm summer night. Maybe you are thinking about soaring high above the earth like an eagle. Those are all wonderful thoughts of peace. Yet all of them fall far short of the peace that once existed in a special garden prepared by God.

Autumn: When God made the world we read in Genesis that everything was perfect. And in this perfect world everything was at peace. The lions and lambs slept side by side. The vultures feasted seeds and berries, and Adam and Eve were at perfect peace with the animals and with each other. There was never a more peaceful place than in God's Garden of Eden.

K4-K5: Genesis 1:31, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Owen: But this peaceful place was soon destroyed when Adam and Eve decided to listen to Satan's lies.

4. *Jesus, Savior, we adore Thee!
Christ of God, anointed Son!
Prince of Peace and Lord of glory,
Our salvation you have won! Amen.*

Pastor's Benediction: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Children and Congregation: Love Is in the Manger K5-8th grade: all verses

1. *Do you see the manger? Can you find the manger?
Do you really know what you're looking for?
Are you blinded by all the tinsel bright?
Can you see the babe through the dark of night?
This is the answer you're looking for.
Can you find the manger? Love is in the manger.
He will bring you peace and joy.*

2. **(cong.) Silent night! Holy night!**
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

3. *Do you see the shepherds kneeling by the baby?
Do you see the wise men with gifts divine?
Can you touch the face of the holy child?
Can you feel his grace and his peace sublime?
This is the Christmas you're looking for.*

been removed. One such verse is in Thessalonians 3:16, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

1st-4th grade: The apostle Paul speaks about the peace of God that is so wonderful it goes beyond our human understanding. We read in Philippians 4:7, "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

K5: In Psalm 29:11 David tells us that the peace we have as God's children is a blessing for us to enjoy. "The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace."

K5-8th grade: Colossians 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Prayer by Children

We pray . . .

1. Oh, the peace forever flowing
From God's gift of His own Son!
Oh, the peace of simply knowing
On the cross that all was done!

2. Peace with God! The Son of Heaven
Came to earth for one like me:
Peace with God! The Lord is risen!
Righteousness now counts me free.

3. Peace with God is Christ in glory;
God is just, and God is love;
Now I too must tell the story,
Bringing souls to God above.

Isaac: Genesis 3:6, "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

Autumn: Sin turned a once peaceful garden into a place of unrest. War was declared between God and Satan, and between Satan and Jesus. The peaceful paradise was over. Sin had infected the earth. From here on, descendants of Adam and Eve would live in a different world. A world of discord and turmoil; a world of sweat and tears, of trouble and pain. A world where there would be no peace.

Avary: Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Owen: But God had a plan. While the world would struggle to find peace, he would provide a perfect peace within the souls of his people. God would send a Savior, a Prince of Peace, who would not come to bring earthly peace, but a lasting peace between people and God.

K4-K5: God made a place just for his own, 'twas peaceful as could be,
But God said, "No! No! No! No! No! Don't eat what's on that tree.
They closed their ears and took a bite, a terrible thing to do,
Then God said, "Now I'll send my Son, a Savior just for you.

*K4 sits down with parents



The Prince of Peace

Congregation: Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
And ev'ry voice a song.

**2. He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure;
And with the treasures of His grace
To'enrich the humble poor.**

**4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.**

Allie: What do you think of when we say the word "peace"?

Hannah: Many would think that peace is the opposite of war. Our world has had many wars. Did you know that if we add up the armies of all the countries of the world today, we would count more than 20 million soldiers? And did you know that over one hundred million people were killed in wars - in only the last hundred years? (New York Times estimates.)

Allie: War between people is a terrible thing. Hatred, envy and greed are some of the causes for wars. No doubt many of us here have relatives who fought in a war. As long as there is sin in our world, people will fight against other people.

Peyton: Jesus said in Matthew 24:6, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come."

Hannah: But that isn't the kind of war and peace we will be talking about today. There is a far more serious battle being fought. This isn't a war that kills bodies. It destroys

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"

Children: Glory to God 1st-8th grade: verse and refrain, K5: refrain only

Refrain:

Glory to God, sing glory to God

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth, goodwill to all!

Glory to God in the highest!

1. Good shepherds, now rejoice

With heart and soul and voice!

Hear the news the angels say:

"Jesus Christ is born today!

You will find the newborn Babe,

So humbly in a manger laid.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Refrain

Our Heavenly Peace

Morgan: Peace. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our lives were more peaceful? But we are so busy, so wrapped up in ourselves and others that our hectic lives know little peace.

Gabi: Especially during the season of Christmas, it seems that we will get very little peace until it's all over. How sad. Of all the seasons of the year, Christmas should be the most peaceful. It's the time of year we think especially about our Prince of Peace.

Children's Benedictions

5th-8th grade: There are many times in the Bible when we read about the peace we have from knowing that our sins are forgiven. Our debt has been paid. Our guilt has



Children: Oh, Wondrous Name 4th-8th grade: all verses, K5-3rd grade: verse 1 and refrain

*1. Oh, wondrous name, by prophets heard
Long years before His birth;
They saw Him coming from afar,
The Prince of Peace on earth.*

Refrain:

*The Wonderful! The Counselor!
The Great and Mighty Lord!
The everlasting Prince of Peace!
The King, the Son of God!*

*2. Oh, glorious name the angels praise
And ransomed saints adore,
The name above all other names,
Our refuge evermore. Refrain*

*3. Oh, precious name, exalted high,
To Him all power is giv'n;
Through Him we triumph over sin,
By Him we enter Heav'n. Refrain*

Offering and Prayers

Choir O Holy Night

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,*

*For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*



A Peaceful Birth

Gabi: The Prince of Peace that Isaiah wrote about was Immanuel, God with us. The Prince of Peace came to earth as a baby in a manger on a peaceful Christmas night. Let's hear the story once again about the birth of the baby Jesus, our Prince of Peace.

1st-8th grade: Luke 2:1-7, "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

Morgan: Jesus' birth was so important that the angels in heaven shared this wonderful news with some shepherds watching their sheep that night. And what did the angels tell them? They told the shepherds that God's peace had now come down to earth. Listen as the angels tell of that peace:

1st-8th grade: Luke 2:8-14, "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

souls. It is a war that affects everyone. It is a war between holy God and sinful people. How could one ever find peace in the middle of such a war?

Allie: The answer is Jesus. Jesus came to stop that war. When he died on the cross, he made peace between God and us. Sin separated us from God. Jesus lived the life we could not live. He gave us his sin-lessness so we could have peace with God.

1st-8th grade: Isaiah 53:5, "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

K5-8th grade: Romans 5:1, "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

K5-8th grade: Ephesians 2:14, "He himself is our peace."

Hannah: These words talk about a peace that is not the same as the world's peace. Jesus' peace is a special peace. It is the peace we now have since God no longer sees our sins. Knowing Jesus sets our hearts at peace.

Virginia: John 14:27, [Jesus said] "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Addie: John 16:33, [Jesus said] "I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Allie: Isaiah went so far as to name Jesus the Prince of Peace.

K5-8th grade: Isaiah 9:6, "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, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."