

Cong. Song: "Silent Night" Women verse 1; Men verse 2; and All verse 3

Women 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.

Men Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

All Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Offering and Prayer

N: We pray this Christmas that you are filled with LIGHT. Not the feel good light that the worldly Christmas tries to comfort with, but the LIGHT of the Gospel that comforts sin darkened hearts with the message that Christ Jesus, the LIGHT, died for the sins of all people.

Cong: Jesus, the LIGHT, gave us His light. He now calls us to be lights of the world spreading His word to all we see. This LIGHT, Jesus, gives us the command to do this and the promise to help us.

Child: Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Child: Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Child Song: "Christmas Songs of Joy"
Choir Song: Christmas comes with sounds of music, angels winging through the air.
Bringing joy to all the people, listen to the song they share. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Christmas comes with praise and worship, shepherds sing with all their might.
As they run to see the Savior, hear their music in the night.
Noel, noel, Noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel.

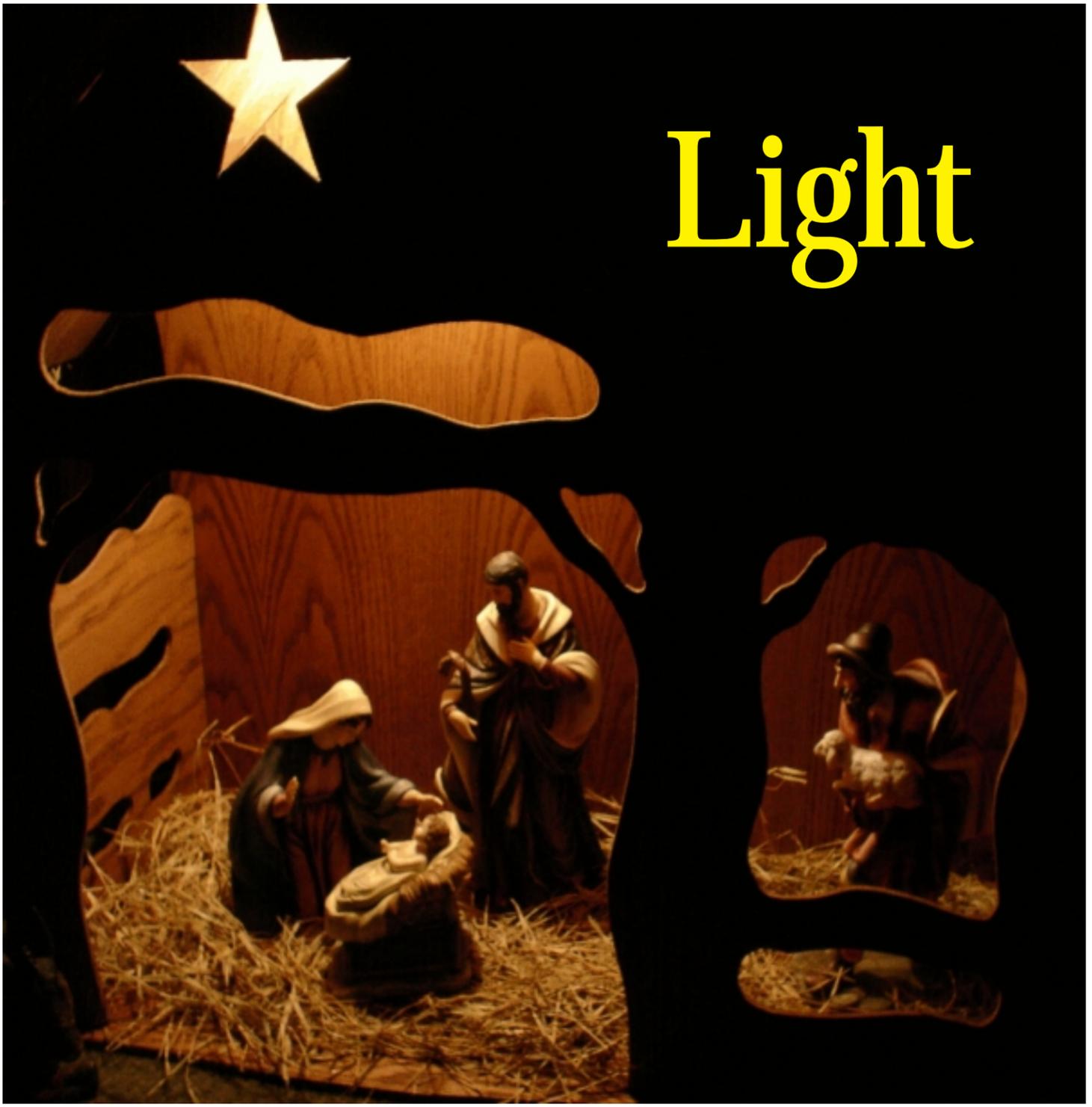
Christmas comes to all the people, music ringing clear and strong.
Will you join the happy chorus lifting high a joyful song? Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King. Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing. Joy to the world!

Benediction and Announcements

Special thanks to the children for presenting the Word of God to us this evening. We thank them for their hard work, and we praise the Lord for all their talents. We thank the choir for their beautiful singing this evening as well. Thank you to Megan Goodwinn and Pastor Rodebaugh for their help with the children. Thank you to Teresa Bernthal for recording, directing, and playing the music for the service. The service was written and directed by Neil Bernthal. We praise and thank the Lord for willing servants to use their gifts to the glory of our Lord and Savior.

Join us tomorrow morning at 10:15 a.m. for the Christmas Day Service. We will be singing songs of praise to Jesus Christ the new born King sent as the Light of the World to free us from the darkness of sin, death, and the devil.

The called workers (Goodwinns, Rodebaughs, and Bernthals) would like to thank the congregation and everyone who gave the generous gift this Christmas season. We are truly blessed by your support. We thank the Lord for such a gracious gift and wonderful congregation to serve. Thanks again.



Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." -John 8:12

December 24, 2017

1449 34th St. NW Winter Haven, FL 33881 www.winterhavenlutheran.org

Child and Choir Song: “God of God Light of Light”
God of God and Light of Light Jesus, Immanuel, God of God and Light of Light Jesus, Immanuel,
Born of virgin mother, He came with us to dwell Born of virgin mother, He came with us to dwell.
He, true God of God, true Light of Light, our Lord Immanuel.

N: LIGHT. Hearing the very word, light seems to bring hope, peace, a calm, and a smile to one’s face. Light has a quality in it to brighten, to open one’s eyes, to shine for all to see. Light removes darkness. Light shines into corners to bring to view areas that haven’t been seen. Often times light is equaled with the conquering hero bringing hope, justice, peace, love, and relief from the evil forces of darkness. The hero, pictured on a white steed, shining in the distance, has light on his side. From little on we have been taught LIGHT is GOOD, while DARKNESS is EVIL. Where has this idea come from? Jesus tells us He is the LIGHT of the world.

Child: John 8:12 “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”

N: Christmas and light are tied closely together. Think of all the ways light is connected with Christmas: lights on the Christmas tree, decorative lights in yards and on houses, twinkling lights in shopping centers, millions of lights at Disney, light from the Advent candles, lighting the Yule log, the angelic light the shepherds saw, and the light of the star that led the wise men. Light gives us the feeling of Christmas. The LIGHT we will be hearing about this Christmas Eve is not decorative or fancy or glamorous. Yet this LIGHT is the reason we have Christmas, the reason we are saved, and the most important LIGHT at Christmas. This LIGHT is Jesus Christ.

Cong. Sing “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”
On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King’s birth.

When sin departs before Your grace, Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before Your grace, Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and saints with joy may sing All for to see the newborn King.

N: This Christmas, our darkened, sin-filled eyes will be opened to the true LIGHT, Jesus Christ. His LIGHT shines into the dark areas of our hearts removing unbelief and sin, but replacing it with His hope, peace, love, and relief from the dark ravages of sin, death, and the devil. Jesus is the LIGHT sent from heaven as a baby to destroy the darkened curse of sin by His death and glorious resurrection.

Cong. Sing: From out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night.
From out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night.
“Glory to God and peace to men Now and forevermore. Amen.”

Light - Promised

N: “In the beginning,” God spoke with His powerful Word, and out of nothing, created everything. He looked at all He had created and said it was good, perfect. No sin, no sickness, no death, no pain, and no suffering came upon God’s creation or His people, Adam and Eve. In other words there was NO SPIRITUAL DARKNESS and NO EVIL. But this light of perfection was short lived.

Child: In Genesis 3 Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit that God said not to eat.

N: Sin’s darkness had fallen over God’s creation through Adam’s sin. Now, all of God’s creation even His people, Adam and Eve, were sinful. This sin, darkened the hearts of every single human being that would enter this world.

Child: Matthew 20:28 “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Cong: Jesus, the LIGHT, was born to die. His work was to save us from our sins. This LIGHT, Jesus, has shined forgiveness in our hearts dispelling the darkness of unbelief by His death.

Light - People

N: Have you ever driven around town at night looking at people’s Christmas lights? You see the streets aglow and houses lit up with brightness. But have you ever seen a house that has Christmas lights strung around it, but the lights aren’t lit? Seems pointless to have the lights on the house at all if they aren’t going to be used. Jesus uses the same picture when talking about His light. He says to you. . .

Child: Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world.”

Child: “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”

Child: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

N: No one turns on lights and then covers them. A light is designed to shine and let everyone see it. Jesus, the LIGHT, has given us salvation, faith, and forgiveness by His death on the cross. We were once in darkness, but He has given us His light. He does not want us to hide that light. He wants us to let our light shine, by telling others who the LIGHT of the World is and what He has done for us all.

Child: Ephesians 5:8 “For you were once darkness, but now are light in the Lord. Walk as children of Light.”

N: Jesus, the LIGHT, has saved us from the darkness of our sin and from hell. He has made us Children of LIGHT. This gift and LIGHT of salvation should set our hearts on fire with the zeal to go and spread this message of LIGHT to all we see. The shepherds did. They left their sheep, ran to find the LIGHT, returned praising God, and shared this message of salvation with those they met in Bethlehem. Simeon grabbed the Christ Child in His arms and held Him up in the temple for all to see and proclaimed for all to hear that this Child was the “Light to lighten the Gentiles.” As Jesus said, we are lights of the world. This world is filled with unbelief and sin. We need to spread this message of LIGHT for all to see and hear so they may walk in the LIGHT. Let this LIGHT shine so others may see it and glorify God in heaven.

Child Song: “This Little Light of Mine”
Group 1 This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine till Jesus comes, I’m going to let it shine.
Let it shine till Jesus comes, I’m going to let is shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

N: During this Christmas season filled with many lights, let us remember the True LIGHT, Jesus, who was sent to give us His LIGHT and salvation by dying on the cross for us. As we rush around this Christmas and see many Christmas lights flash, sparkle, blink, and dance to blur us, let us not lose focus on the true LIGHT. Let us meditate on and worship the LIGHT, who was born on that calm, silent night many years ago in Bethlehem; for this LIGHT was born to save us.

From Heav'n above He came in love, This wondrous babe so small,
Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, to bless us one and all!

To bring the world salvation, The Son of God was born;
A gift to ev'ry nation, upon that Christmas morn!
Rejoice! Rejoice! And with the angels sing!
Rejoice! Rejoice! And hail Him King!

Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, In Bethlehem afar,
Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, shines bright His guiding star!
Its light has spread from manger bed to shine from shore to shore!
Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, our hope forevermore!
Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, our hope forevermore!

N: This LIGHT had come. This LIGHT, Jesus, was to shine in the darkness and give His light to every man in the world. What does that mean? Why was the LIGHT, Jesus, sent? Why did He leave His heavenly throne to come to this sin-darkened world where souls are lost in spiritual darkness? The answer lies in the LIGHT's Work.

Child: Luke 19:10 "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Child: Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Child: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

N: The darkness is pictured as unbelief and sin. It came through Adam and Eve's disobedience, but Jesus is the LIGHT who was sent to scatter that darkness and shine in its place the light of forgiveness and salvation. He came to shed His light on us by dying for us. This connection of sin entering the world through one man, Adam; and salvation entering the world through one man, Jesus, is mentioned in Romans.

Child: Romans 5:19 "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

N: The reason the LIGHT, Jesus, was sent to this earth was to die for your sins and mine. It was to rid our hearts of the blackness of sin which darkened us. This is the reason we celebrate Christmas. This is the reason we celebrate the LIGHT coming into the world. This LIGHT gives us salvation. Now our eyes see this LIGHT of salvation just like the aged Simeon did. He waited daily in the temple for this LIGHT. God promised Simeon that before he would die, he would see the Salvation of the World, this LIGHT to lighten the Gentiles.

Child: Luke 2:28 "[Simeon] took [Jesus] up in his arms and blessed God and said:

Cong. Sing: "The Nunc Dimittis"
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
A Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
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.

N: Christmas lights are meant to show off their light. This Christmas LIGHT of the World, Jesus Christ, our God, did not come to "show off," His glorious light. This LIGHT was sent to save and serve us who were lost in the darkness of unbelief.

Child: Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."

N: God gave hope, a promise, a LIGHT. God promised LIGHT would come in the form of a child from the seed of the woman to crush the darkness of the serpent's head and sin.

Child: Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

N: This LIGHT promised was Jesus. Throughout the whole Old Testament these promises of the hope of salvation shined into a world darkened by unbelief and sin.

Child: Isaiah 9:2 "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined."

Child: Isaiah 49:6 "I will also give You [Jesus] as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."

Child: Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you."

Cong: Jesus, the promised LIGHT, was sent to destroy sin's darkness over all people. This LIGHT, Jesus, would be born to save us.

Child and "Canticle for Advent"

Choir Song: Rise and shine the Light has risen the eternal Light sends forth
Hope that comforts, hope that strengthens, hope fulfilled on Christmas Day.
Through this season of the darkness may this holy Light shine forth.
May our lives display compassion, faithful to the Prince of Peace.
Come, hope, come pierce the long night. How long we have waited through death's shadow dark.
Come, peace, come heal and unite. We wait, watch and witness God's promise fulfilled.
Yearning, faithful hearts have gathered, waiting for the chosen One.
Soon, oh, soon may joy embrace us, joy to welcome God's own Son.
Rise and shine the Light has risen the eternal Light sends forth
Love sustains us, Love forgives us; Love fulfilled on Christmas Day.
Come, joy, restoring our sight. How long we have waited through death's shadow dark.
Come, love, redeem by your Light. We wait, watch and witness God's promise fulfilled.
We wait, watch and witness God's promise fulfilled.

Light - Born

N: Children know Christmas is around the corner, not by looking on calendars or checking watches but by seeing the Christmas lights in store windows, along streets, and in yards. They know when the time is right, for they are eagerly anticipating this festive holiday by watching for the lights and decorations. In a similar way, God knew when it was time for His LIGHT to come.

Child: Galatians 4:4 "But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem, those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

N: God's time had come. The promises were being fulfilled this night. Jesus the LIGHT was to be born of the Virgin Mary. Listen to the LIGHT being born for our salvation in those bright words of the Gospel of Luke chapter 2.

Child Luke 2:1-7 “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

N: The LIGHT, Jesus, was born humbly in a stable, laid in a manger. There were no bright decorations adorning this place of birth for the LIGHT of the World, but this LIGHT, Jesus, would burn brighter and longer than any Christmas light.

Child Song: “O Come to the Manger”

Choir Song: O come, little children, O come to the manger, O come to Bethlehem O come to the manger in Bethlehem!
O come, little children, O come one and all, O come and adore him, the child born so small.
God’s gift for a Son comes to you on this night to be your redeemer, your joy and delight.
O come, adore the holy child, come, praise the Lord of Light!

N: Imagine a Christmas with all the lights, decorations, and preparations perfectly set and ready, yet having no people to celebrate that Christmas. There is no family to enjoy the festivities. No children to gaze in awe at the glowing lights of the Christmas tree. No friends to stop in and greet with a face lit up with cheer. This is similar to that first Christmas. The promises were given. The time was set. Everything was in place. The LIGHT was to be born to set in motion the plan of salvation. Yet there were few who were eagerly awaiting this LIGHT. Many were sitting in darkness and did not know it was time. Some poor, lowly shepherds were told of the LIGHT’s coming.

Child Song: “An Angel of the Lord”
An Angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone round them.
And they were terrified! Terrified! But the angel said to them:
Do not be frozen with fright, Do not be fearful tonight. Quit shaking and see the Lord’s majesty,
Giving off glorious light, Giving good news tonight! Glory to God in the highest,
Glory to God the Most High! This day on earth is the Savior’s birth!
Glory to God the Most High! Glory to God the Most High!
Heed what the signs have to say: Swaddled upon manger hay,
The Babe will be found in King David’s town; Go without further delay! Worship the child today!
Glory to God in the highest, Glory to God the Most High! This day on earth is the Savior’s birth!
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God the Most High!

Child: Luke 2:8-14 “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Child Song: “Sing Noel”
Shepherds, shepherds, hear the story: Christ is born in Bethlehem. Rise and go to see His glory,
Leave your flock to welcome Him! Sing noel, O sing noel, O sing noel, for Christ is born!
Angels, angels, heav’nly chorus, Christ has come to earth today! Bright the star that shines before us,
Pointing clear to all the way! Sing noel, O sing noel, O sing noel, for Christ is born!
Wise men, wise men, treasure bringing to the manger bed afar, Joyful praises ever singing,
Follow now the guiding star. Sing noel, O sing noel, O sing noel, for Christ is born! Christ is born!

Child: Luke 2:15-20 “And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

Cong: Jesus, the LIGHT, was born for us when God’s time was right. This LIGHT, Jesus, shone for the world to be saved.

**Cong. Song: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim. "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”**

Light - Work

N: Christmas lights are meant to be seen. They shine and glow in order for people to see their brightness which fills them with joy. Jesus, the LIGHT, was sent to be seen. He would shine and glow in this world filled with the dark curse of sin so all people could see Him and be filled with the joy of salvation. The Apostle John daily saw Jesus, the LIGHT, while He was on this earth. John writes and witnesses about who Jesus is, the LIGHT.

Child: John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Child: John 1:4-5 “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Child: John 1:9 “That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”

Child and: “Hallelujah, Glory, Hallelujah”
Choir Song: Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, to all good tidings tell,
Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, He comes, Immanuel!
No mortal he, yet born to be the Lord of all the earth,
Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, Proclaim His holy birth!

Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, Our voices let us raise,
Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah, In joyful songs of praise!