

Christmas Day

DECEMBER 25, 2016

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 148; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Focus statement:

Jesus is born! Come, walk in the way of God's heart.

Gathering

(Sing as many of the congregation's favorite Christmas carols as you are able to include.)

Song suggestions:

HWB 191 O Little Town of Bethlehem

HWB 192 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

HWB 193 Silent Night, Holy Night

HWB 194 Away in a Manger

HWB 195 It Came upon a Midnight Clear

HWB 211 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

STS 19 Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

STS 22 There Were Angels Hov'ring Round

STS 25 A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

STS 27 Sing a Different Song

STS 28 Holy Child within the Manger

Call to worship:

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord! The fullness of time has come.

People: **As the earth brings forth its shoots,**

Leader: so God sent the Son, born into humanity,

People: **to show us God's heart.**

All: *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Candle lighting while singing *STS 3* "Come, Light of the World"

Praising

Christmas reading:

Psalm 148 (see p. 47)

Song suggestion:

HWB 197 Angels We Have Heard on High

Confessing/Reconciling

Prayer of confession:

Leader: Incarnate God,

People: **we yearn to walk in your way but
often choose our own path of tur-
moil and pain.**

**Save us, Lord, from the pride
and foolishness of choosing our
own course, that we may humbly
and confidently follow your lead,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Words of assurance:

Leader: Throughout the tumult of life,
God holds you close in love.

Rejoice,

because God's wisdom is your guide,

God's compassion is your strength.

God's love is your redemption.

All: *Come, let us walk in the way of
God's heart!*

Song suggestion:

HWB 204 Gloria

Hearing God's Word

(Combine children's time with the sermon.)

A simple retelling of the first Christmas Day. The preacher might talk about the ways the Advent season has unfolded in the life of the congregation.

Responding

Song of response:

HWB 209 Oh, How Joyfully

Prayers of the people

Sending

Benediction:

Leader: From where we are
to where you need us,

All: *Jesus, lead us on.*

Leader: From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal,

All: *Jesus, lead us on.*

Leader: To refashion the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

All: *Jesus, leads us on.*

Leader: Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,

All: *Jesus, lead us!*