



Impossible Christmas Sunday Resource | God Revealed Among Us

Call to Worship

Come and see the light that has been given.

We, who have grown comfortable with darkness, are seeing it.

What seemed impossible is now revealed

A child has been given, God among us.

ALL: Let us live as people who know the impossible power of the infant king.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that the Holy One who whispers today:

is the One whose words formed the ground under our feet, the stars over our heads, the depths
of the waters

is the One whose Word is breath and life itself

We believe that Jesus, God's Son

is this Word who was there in the beginning

is the summons in every prophet's true call

is a person who came into the world like the rest of us – vulnerable, needy

We believe that Jesus, in living this human life with us,

opened us to new understanding of God,

turned the world right side up

undid death's hold

and showed us the beautiful truth of our humanity in eyes that cried, lips that laughed, and

hands and feet that bled

We believe that the Spirit of God

is with us now

connects us with Jesus

mends our broken hearts, broken lives, broken relationships

and teaches us love for both the community who calls him Lord and the world he came to save.

Amen.



Advent Candle Lighting Reading

Reader 1: Today, as we light our candles once more, we do so with celebration, as Christ has been born! A Son has been given to us, God is with us, among us! We praise God for the birth of Christ all those years ago, and the birth of Christ in us today.

Reader 2: We give thanks to the God who is with us always. We remember that God is the light of the world, and the light of our lives.

Light all the candles, including the center Christ candle.

Reader 2: Let us pray:

O Eternal God, we give you thanks for your continued presence in our lives, for your steadfast abundant love for us. Thank you for coming to us in Jesus, born on the margins. Thank you, Jesus, and may we carry your hope, peace, love, and joy with us everywhere we go. Today, and every day. Amen.

Note: You may choose to make the closing prayer a unison prayer.

Suggested Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Dramatic Reading

Note: This is a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story found in Luke 2:1-20. It can be read by one voice or multiple voices. It can be interspersed with music selections to create a contemporary "Lessons and Carols" style service.

From generation to generation, a prophecy was told of one who would come and change the world.
From generation to generation, in days of joy and in days of sorrow, the people heard about a Savior.
From generation to generation, the people of God waited.

They imagined one who would come to save them.
They imagined power, greater than any kingdom on this earth.
They imagined a king wielding a sword, striking fear into the hearts of their enemies.
From generation to generation, the people of God waited.



And rulers came into power and made decrees.
Wars happened, bringing destruction.
Exile, injustice, and violence occurred.
And the people of God waited.

Generation after generation, the people looked for the one who would save them.
And the prophets continued to challenge and charge the people,
Calling them to be people of justice and righteousness.
And the prophecy was still told of the one who would come to change everything.

And time went on, generations passed, and the people of God came under heavy Roman influence.
Herod became king of Judea and, though Jewish, devoted himself to Roman customs.
One year the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken.
The entire empire was told to return to their ancestral hometown to be accounted for.
So, many made plans and traveled great distances to do what was commanded.

Joseph of Nazareth, a descendant of David, headed to Bethlehem.
He went to be counted there with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.
And while they were there the time came for Mary to give birth.
The city was so crowded, there was no place for them, and Mary laid her newborn son in a manger.

An angel appeared in the fields outside of Bethlehem as this baby was born.
The shepherds gathered there were frightened, startled, jolted by the news,
“A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to
look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.”¹
And an angelic choir appeared among them singing God’s praises.

When this choir returned to heaven, the shepherds knew they had to find this child.
So, they ran into the village, found their way to Mary and Joseph,
Saw the baby lying in the manger and told everyone what the angels had said.
And this is how the one who came to change the world entered it.

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

¹ Luke 2:12, MSG



Offering Introduction:

Through Jesus, God makes the impossible possible. Let us give today trusting that God can transform what we bring into new possibilities for our church, community, and world.

Offertory Prayer:

Surprising God, we release our gifts to you today, knowing that even as we expect great things from you, your plans will always surprise and amaze us. Bless our offerings and open us up to your vision for their use. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional)

UMH #196 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
UMH #211 – O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel/MVPC #80 – Oh ven, oh ven
Emanuel
UMH #202 – People, Look East
UMH #215 – To A Maid Engaged to Joseph
UMH #217 – Away in Manger
UMH #230 – O Little Town of Bethlehem
UMH #229 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
UMH #238 – Angels We Have Heard on
High/MVPC #98 – Ángeles cantando están Tan
dulcísima canción
UMH #240 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
UMH #242 – Love Came Down at Christmas
UMH #246 – Joy to the World
UMH #250 – Once in Royal David’s City
Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child – CCLI
#4206269

Music Suggestions (Contemporary)

W & S – God Almighty We Are Waiting
Noel – CCLI #7050419 / Noel (Spanish):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQfBlkivPQE>
He Shall Reign Forevermore – CCLI #705416 / Él
reinará por siempre:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZmLdL1pL-8>
Born on that Day – CCLI #7119267
My Soul Magnifies the Lord – CCLI #5601671
All Creation Sing (Joy to the World) – CCLI
#5305393
Glory (Let There Be Peace) – CCLI #7071972
Build Your Kingdom Here – CCLI #6186078/Trae
tu Reino Aquí – CCLI #7162392
What A Glorious Night – CCLI #7002651