

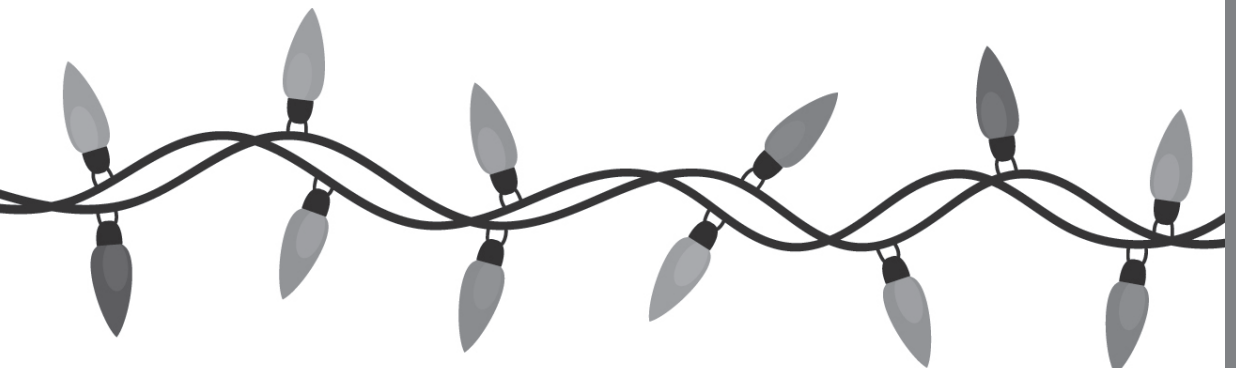


CHRISTMAS PRAISE



PREPARATION

- + Service sheet outline or slide presentation with songs, prayers...
- + Resources for telling the story of the first Christmas – books, jigsaw, nativity set, puppets...
- + Invitations and information regarding other church activities over the Christmas period
- + Handprint Angels:
 - ▶ black or dark blue paper
 - ▶ white paint
 - ▶ glitter
 - ▶ pre-cut circles for faces
 - ▶ crayons to colour
 - ▶ wiggly eyes
 - ▶ wool or tissue paper for hair
 - ▶ piece of tinsel
- + Baby Jesus Biscuit (beware of food allergies):
 - ▶ paper plates
 - ▶ rectangle biscuits – morning coffee or malted milk
 - ▶ white icing
 - ▶ Shredded Wheat
 - ▶ jelly babies
 - ▶ fondant icing for blanket
- + Christmas presents for the children and parents/carers
- + A variety of musical instruments



INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Christmas is such a special time of year, and even young children get caught up in the excitement and preparations for it. Decorating Christmas trees, going shopping and visits to see Father Christmas will be part of the traditions that they share with their family.

However, it is really important that we take time to help the children learn the Christmas story so that they understand the reason for the season.

Christmas is a great time to invite families to other church activities, so we need to make sure that we have good information available so they know exactly what is happening throughout the Christmas period.

WELCOME

'Christmas Welcome Song'

Tune: 'She'll be coming round the mountain'

We are celebrating Christmas here today,
 We are celebrating Christmas here today,
 We are celebrating Christmas, celebrating Christmas,
 Celebrating Christmas here today!

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

There are lots of excellent books and resources available for telling the Christmas story.

One simple way is to wrap each of the characters from a Nativity set and open them in order to build up the story. This can also be done using a nativity scene jigsaw or by making simple puppets that the children can hold.

You could also invite the children to come dressed up as characters from the story and use them in retelling it, even if it means having four Marys and eight wise men!

Bible Narrative

The Birth of Jesus is announced – Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus – Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

The visit of the Shepherds – Luke 2:8-20

The visit of the Wise Men – Matthew 2:1-12



THEME SONG

'The Christmas Song'

Tune: 'The wheels on the bus'

The star in the sky says follow me, follow me, follow me,
 The star in the sky says follow me, at Christmas time.

Mary and Joseph walked and walked, walked and walked, walked and walked,
 Mary and Joseph walked and walked to Bethlehem.

The baby Jesus was born for all, born for all, born for all,
 The baby Jesus was born for all on Christmas Day.

Christmas is our favourite time, favourite time, favourite time,
 Christmas is our favourite time – Thank you, God.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Christmas is such an exciting time! Thank you, God, for sending Jesus as a baby that very first Christmas. Help us to remember to celebrate his birthday as we open our presents on Christmas Day.

Amen.

PRAYER SONG

Tune: 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'

We thank you, God, for Jesus! We thank you, God, for Jesus!
We thank you, God, for Jesus on that first Christmas Day!
Glad tidings we sing of the new baby King!
We thank you, God, for Jesus on that first Christmas Day!



ACTIVITY/GAMES

There are lots of craft ideas with a Christmas theme, but please do something that is Nativity-based in order to reinforce the story.

1. Handprint Angels

- ▶ Paint the child's hand white and press down on to black or dark blue paper three times – one for the body and one each side for the wings.
- ▶ Add glitter while the print is still wet.
- ▶ Cut out a circle from white construction paper and colour for the face.
- ▶ Attach face to palm end of hands and add wiggly eyes and hair using tissue paper or wool.
- ▶ Make a halo using glue and glitter or a small piece of tinsel.

2. Baby Jesus biscuits

- ▶ Spread white icing over a rectangle biscuit and sprinkle with crushed Shredded Wheat for the straw.
- ▶ Add a jelly baby and cover in a blanket of fondant icing.

3. For more ideas see: www.pinterest.com/AFMYorkshire/christmas-messy-church-and-craft-ideas

INSTRUMENT SONGS

Select from the Song Bank

1. *Tune: 'Bobby Shafto's gone to sea'*

Christmas now is very near,
Let's all shout and give a cheer!
It's a time we love so dear,
Praising God for Christmas!

Trumpets toot and bells all ring,
Drums go bang and voices sing.
Make a noise with everything
Praising God for Christmas!

2. *Tune: 'Do you know the muffin man'*

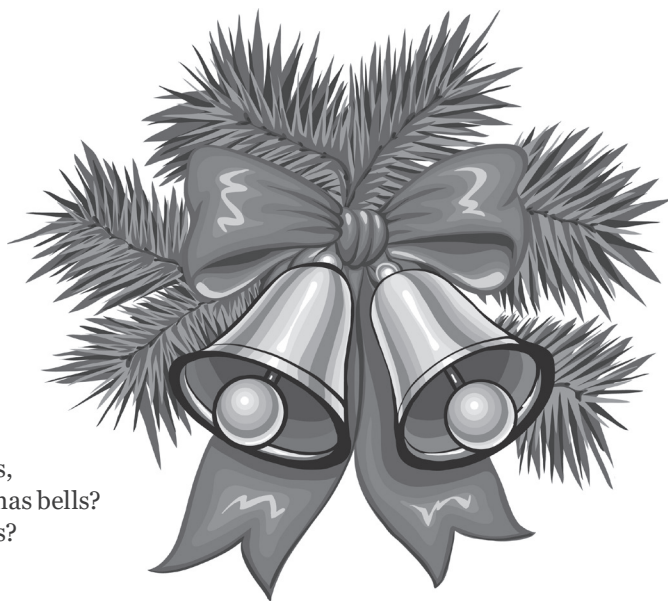
Can you hear the Christmas bells,
The Christmas bells, the Christmas bells?
Can you hear the Christmas bells?
They're praising God today!

Can you hear the Christmas drums,
The Christmas drums, the Christmas drums?
Can you hear the Christmas drums?
They're praising God today!

Can you hear our Christmas song,
Our Christmas song, our Christmas song?
Can you hear our Christmas song?
We're praising God today!

3. *Tune: 'Jingle Bells'*

Christmas time, Christmas time, Christmas time is near,
Bang the drums and shake the bells and clap and give a cheer!
Christmas time, Christmas time, Christmas time is near;
We're so glad that Jesus came for everybody here!



ADDITIONAL SONGS

- ♪ SASB 102 'Away in a manger'
- ♪ SASB 123 'See him lying on a bed of straw'
- ♪ SASB 112 'It was on a starry night'

CLOSING

Closing song or prayer – select from resources.

You could invite Father Christmas to come at the end of your Toddler Church session to bring presents for all the children and parents/carers.