

Sleep

in Heavenly



Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Sleep in Heavenly Peace looks at the true meaning of peace, not as the world sees it, but as God's children know it every day. This service begins with part one, *A Once Peaceful Paradise*, where we witness the ultimate loss of peace through Adam and Eve's sin. Part two leads us to the promise at Eden and in Isaiah, of *The Prince of Peace*. Here the children recite many passages that speak of such peace. Part three, *A Peaceful Birth*, of course leads us to the Bethlehem manger where the Prince of Peace was born. The final section focusses on *Our Heavenly Peace*. The service ends with several benedictions spoken by the children.

I am confident your children, parents and friends will enjoy this service. As always, it is written to be adapted to both large and small groups from preschool to eighth grade. Artwork for a bulletin cover is provided, and yes, we have included a banner design which can easily be put to use.

In these days of upset, confusion and discord all around us, we can find a breath of fresh air in the peace that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

THE NARRATION

There are parts included for two narrators. Feel free to use any number of children for these parts.

RECITATIONS

Recitation sections always include Bible verses that reinforce the narrator's point.

BANNER

Artwork and instructions have been provided to make a full size church banner.

WORSHIP BULLETIN

Although a preprinted worship bulletin for this service is not available, this file includes the artwork so you might print your own service folder covers.

ABOUT THE SONGS

The program includes two less familiar songs from years gone by for our children to sing. Sheet music is provided. There are also several well-known carols sung by the assembly.

HOWEVER, we do offer great alternatives.

1. **60 KREMER SONGS TO PICK FROM** If you would like to explore alternative kids' songs, Kremer Resources is making available 60 Christmas songs (mostly original) from past children's Christmas services. Visit the Kremer website at www.kremerresources.com and click through to CHRISTMAS & WORSHIP SERVICES > 23 CHRISTMAS SERVICES > OTHER CHRISTMAS PRODUCTS > SHEET MUSIC AND MP3 dropdown. Each song comes with reproducible sheet music, singer and accompaniment MP3. Cost is \$9.99 per song.

Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®. Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission of Zondervan

© 2019 Kremer Resources LLC
Menomonee Falls, WI

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Processional: *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!”

Refrain:

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”*

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 we no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give us second birth. Refrain

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.

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.

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

Prayer: 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.

Song by Children: *There's Peace in My Heart*
(*See sheet music is in this file*)

1. There's peace in my heart tonight,
So sweet, and still, and strong;
And into my life has dawned a light,
Which fills my heart with song.
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Peace from the heart of God;
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Peace from the heart of God.

2. There's joy in my heart tonight,
So full, so pure, so deep;
The Father of love hath given to me
The gift of gifts to keep.
Joy, joy, wonderful joy,
Joy in my heart tonight;
Joy, joy, wonderful joy,
Joy in my heart tonight.

3. The Lord to my heart has come;
He deigns to dwell with me;
He cleanses my life from stain of sin
That I like Him may be.
Sing, sing, joyfully sing,
Sing of His love to me,
Sing, sing, joyfully sing,
Sing of His love to me.

A Once Peaceful Paradise

Nar. 1 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.

Nar. 2 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.

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

Nar. 1 But this peaceful place was soon destroyed when Adam and Eve decided to listen to Satan's lies.

Recitation: 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."

Nar. 2 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.

Recitation: 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."

Nar. 1 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.

Little Children: God made a place just for his own, 'twas peaceful as could be,
(*Wave arms in air.*)
But God said, "No! No! No! No! No! Don't eat what's on that tree.
(*Shaking finger to say No!*)
They closed their ears and took a bite, a terrible thing to do,
(*Ears: put hands over ears; Bite: Hold fruit in front of mouth and bite.*)
Then God said, "Now I'll send my Son, a Savior just for you.
(*Rock baby in arms.*)

The Prince of Peace

Song by Congregation: *Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes*

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

2. He comes the prisoners 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 Heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Nar. 1 What do you think of when we say the word "peace"?

Nar. 2 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.*)

Nar. 1 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.

Recitation: 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."

Nar. 2 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 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?

Nar. 1 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.

Recitation (ALL): 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.”

Recitation (ALL): Romans 5:1, “Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Recitation (ALL): Ephesians 2:14, “He himself is our peace.”

Nar. 2 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.

Recitation: 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.”

Recitation: 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.”

Nar. 1 Isaiah went so far as to name Jesus the **Prince of Peace**.

Recitation (ALL): 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.”

Children’s Song: *Oh, Wondrous Name*
(Sung to the tune *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*)

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

A Peaceful Birth

THIS SECTION HAS BEEN DELETED IN THE SAMPLE COPY.

Our Heavenly Peace

Nar. 1 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.

Nar. 2 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

Upper Grades: 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 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."

Middle Grades: 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."

Lower Grades: 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."

All Children: 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 . . .

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!

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.

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.

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.

Song by All: *Silent Night*

1 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.

2 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!"

3 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!

Announcements

Recessional: *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!

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!