

# 12 Points of Light Christmas Service



## Overview:

This program can be presented during your Sunday school time or can be developed into an intergenerational program and presented during the Sunday service.

There are 12 readings so 12 groups are needed. Create them as follows:

- ♥ Invite 12 adults or older children to be the leader of each of the groups.
- ♥ Divide your Youth Ministry program into 12 groups and assign each group to an adult leader.
- ♥ Within each group choose a responsible child who will act as the candle lighter. (If the children are young the adult can light the candle.) This child will also recite the first line of the reading.
- ♥ The adult will recite the rest of the reading.
- ♥ The whole group will recite the affirmation together.

## Materials:

- ♥ One large white center candle on a flat glass candle holder
- ♥ 11 smaller candles, each with a separate holder. (*You can create your own candle holders by using a piece of wood cut into a doughnut shape. Drill 11 holes small enough to hold the candles secure. Place the large candle in the middle. Then cover everything with evergreens.*)
- ♥ Evergreens or a wreath. You want to achieve the affect of having the large center candle surrounded by Christmas wreath with 11 smaller white candles in it. The wreath is to appear to have the small candles within it.
- ♥ **Optional costumes:** *Since each group will have a central focus you may invite the children and adults to create something simple to represent their focus.*

## Procession:

- ♥ Before Service place the candle holders, & evergreens on a table in the Sanctuary.
- ♥ Line the groups up in the order they will enter the Sanctuary.
- ♥ The adult leads the group followed by the candle lighter, who will be carrying an **unlit** candle before him/her. The rest of the group follows behind.
- ♥ When they get to the candle table the child and the adult stand behind the table, facing the congregation. The rest of the group gathers beside them, facing forward. The candle lighter places the candle in the appropriate holder and either the child or adult lights the candle. As the candle is lit the child candle lighter reads the "I light..." statement. Then the adult reads the balance of the reading. The whole group then recites the ending affirmation.
- ♥ When they have finished they move to the side and the next group walks into the sanctuary. Repeat until all readings are completed.
- ♥ Then invite the congregation to join you in singing your favorite Christmas song.

# 12 Points of Light READER CARDS...

## #1 The City of Bethlehem (Light a small candle)

**Child:** I light this candle for the city of Bethlehem.

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**Adult:** Bethlehem means house of bread. So it represents a consciousness of Divine Substance which is always surrounding each of us. It tells us that God provides all that we need to live an abundant life. Bethlehem had no walls, which means we are all supported by spirit as long as we are willing to accept it into our lives.

**All Together:** “I am grateful for all the gifts from God, which provide a wonderful life for me.”

## #2 The Star (Light a small candle)

**Child:** I light this candle for the Christmas star.

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**Adult:** Because stars are in the heavens and the ancients thought heaven was the home of the gods, they symbolize ideas which come for God rather than from the human mind. The Christmas Star was special because it not only represents Divine ideas from God, but the power to be led to an inner understanding. This requires our desire to see with spiritual eyes...just as the Wise Men did. They were the only ones to see the star.

**All Together:** “I acknowledge the Christ presence within me and I live from it.”

## #3 The Angels (Light a small candle)

**Child:** I light this candle for the angels.

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**Adult:** The angels symbolize messengers from God. Angels appear in the gospels only when individuals need to become aware of their presence and in turn, the presence of God. We remember that angels also ministered to Jesus following the forty days in the wilderness. Angels remind us that we are never alone; that God is with us and in us and around us at all times.

**All Together:** “I am open to the divine direction I receive and I act upon it.”

## #4 King Herod (Light a small candle)

**Child:** I light this candle for King Herod.

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**Adult:** Herod represents the negative parts of our mind. He stands for our ego. When we are in our ego, we do not understand our true nature. We must move away from the world and our connection to it, in order to have the things of Spirit and to discover our inner Divinity. This requires great faith and trust.

**All Together:** “I let go and let God manifest the good prepared for me.”

## **#5 Father Joseph (Light a small candle)**

**Child:** I light this candle for Joseph, the father of Jesus.

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**Adult:** Joseph's name means "whom Jehovah will add to." Being a man, Joseph symbolizes all aspects of our thinking nature. But Joseph is a special man, because he hears and responds to angelic messages, so he metaphysically represents a willingness to provide and create a place for God in his life and the life of his family.

**All Together:** "I establish and maintain a place in my life for prayer and meditation."

## **#6 Mother Mary (Light a small candle)**

**Child:** I light this candle for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

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**Adult:** Mary symbolizes the purified consciousness or soul which is ready to allow the full expression the Divine spark within her. As the mother of Jesus, Mary represents love in its highest sense. Her youth suggests vitality and as yet unrealized possibilities. Although Mary doesn't initiate Spiritual change and transformation herself, she acts as a willing channel for this to happen, not only for herself but for others.

**All Together:** "I nurture the Spiritual desire in me to bring forth love."

## **#7 Baby Jesus (Light the large candle)**

**Child:** I light this large candle for the Baby Jesus.

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**Adult:** Jesus' birth symbolizes a brand new idea, the integration of all that is human and all that is Divine within the soul. The Hebrew meaning of Jesus name is deliverer, savior. The baby Jesus metaphysically stands for the image of God in each one of us. When we bring our feeling and thinking natures together, we will discover the spiritual mission given to us that will fulfill us completely.

**All Together:** "I have a special purpose in my life and I commit myself to it."

## **#8 The Manger (Light a small candle)**

**Child:** I light this candle for the manger.

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**Adult:** As a container of food for domestic animals, a manger symbolizes our humanness in the form of our body. Metaphysically, our bodies are holy temples that house and give physical form to our God-nature. With these bodies, we are able to express God's love into our world and so are able to complete the spiritual mission we have been given.

**All Together:** "I take care of my body and I honor it as a holy temple"

## **#9 The Shepherds (Light a small candle)**

**Child:** I light this candle for the shepherds.

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**Adult:** That the shepherds leave their flock (their wealth) untended to find the Child clearly indicates the symbolic letting go of our attachments and worldly possessions. They metaphysically represent thoughts that are only on God. Because of their faith, they are awakened by the angels in the darkness (ignorance or not knowing) into a great Truth. Their obedience led them to where the child lay.

**All Together:** “I choose to hold on to only positive, creative thoughts.”

## **#10 The Animals (Light a small candle)**

**Child:** I light this candle for the animals.

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**Adult:** Each animal in the Christmas story metaphysically represents both the positive and negative human traits we all experience. The camels represent strength and endurance, but also rudeness and bad temper. The sheep represent honesty, courage and obedience, but they also represent stubbornness and independence. Choosing a positive expression, our inner qualities will expand our spiritual experience.

**All Together:** “I call forth my spiritual qualities and I express them now.”

## **#11 The Wise Men (Light a small candle)**

**Child:** I light this candle for the Wise Men, also called Magi.

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**Adult:** These men were knowledgeable in many fields and were usually astrologers. Metaphysically, they represent wisdom. Only the Wise Men can see the star. They remind us that following our intuition (or Holy Spirit) doesn't rely on our human mind. By their examples, they encourage us to follow the Divine promptings in our lives. Only then can miracles really occur.

**All Together:** “I listen to my “still, small voice” and I receive the Divine Wisdom that I need in every situation.”

## **#12 The Gifts (Light a small candle)**

**Child:** I light this candle for the gifts.

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**Adult:** The gifts symbolize all that is brought to us, when we but come from a consciousness of service and our Divine connection. Just as the baby Jesus did nothing except to come into the world, as we honor our own Divine mission and serve the world from the Spiritual first...all these things are added unto us. Because we have first given, we will receive from God all that we may need.

**All Together:** “I give all that I have and I that I am to bring forth peace on earth and goodwill to everyone.”