

Children Go Where I Send Thee
Kim Marxhausen

Processional: Prepare the Royal Highway LW 27 LSB 343

Group One: **God sent Jesus down from above
God sends me to tell of His love**

Group Two: **Children go where I send thee**

Group Three: **How shall I send thee?**

Group Four: **I'm going to send thee five by five**

Children sing: Children go where I send thee
 How shall I send thee
 I'm gonna send thee five by five
 Five for the people counted alive
 Born, born, born in Bethlehem

Reader: In those days Ceasar Augustus issued a decree that a census
 should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first
 census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
 And everyone went to his own town to register. Luke 2: 1-3

Costumed children: *Town people gather center stage. They bump and move
around while one child tries to count.*

Children: **Hold still, hold still, you need to be counted!**

Costumed children: *Town people line up and are counted.*

Children: **One two three four etc.**

Costumed children: *Census taker makes counting motion and records answer
on chart*

Reader:

Caesar wanted a count of his kingdom for tax purposes. Our Heavenly Father has a count of His kingdom, also. We count as children of God. We have been counted for heaven and the Bible assures us our names are written in the book of life, but what about our sins? Don't they count against us?

Children: **NO! God doesn't count our sins! God counts us!**

Reader:

Romans 4:7-8 reminds us: "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Young Children:

1 Jesus is God's Son
1,2 He came to earth for you
1,2,3 He came to earth for me
1,2,3,4 He is the One that we adore

Song: Savior of the Nations Come LW 13 LSB 332 or
As Each Happy Christmas LOSP 81

Group One: **God sent Jesus down from above**
God sends me to tell of His love

Group Two: **Children go where I send thee**

Group Three: **How shall I send thee?**

Group Four: **I'm gonna send thee four by four**

Children sing:

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee four by four
Four for the angels' singing tour
Five for the people counted alive

Born, born, born in Bethlehem

Reader:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly, a great company of heavenly hosts appeared with the angel praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.'" Luke 2:8-14

Costumed children: *Angels appear to shepherds in the field.*

Children: **Do not be afraid. We bring you good news of great joy!**

Costumed children: *Shepherds jump and shout for joy.*

Reader:

The words of the angels gave joy rather than fear. We fear God because we know of His awesome power but He does not want us to be afraid of Him. We are His children and His love fills our hearts with joy. Jesus tells us, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that you joy may be complete." John 15:11

Young Children: **Angels, angels in the sky
Angels, angels sing to God
Angels, angels shine like stars
Angels, angels tell the news**

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing LW 49 LSB 38 or
Glory Alleluia LLV 15

Group One: **God sent Jesus down from above**

God sends me to tell of His love

Group Two: **Children go where I send thee**

Group Three: **How shall I send thee?**

Group Four: **I'm gonna send thee three by three**

Children sing:

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee three by three
Three for the shepherd's bended knee
Four for the angels' singing tour
Five for the people counted alive
Born, born, born in Bethlehem

Reader:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:15-16

Costumed children: Mary, Joseph and baby should gather around the manger. The shepherds kneel beside the manger. The town people gather around.

Children: **Baby Jesus is here! He is God's Son!**

Reader:

The shepherds struck with awe by the angel's words and the sight of their long awaited Savior, knelt to worship the newborn child. Join with us in worship as we recite Psalm 100, a song of praise, thanking God for His immeasurable love for us.

Reader: Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth.

Cong: Know that the Lord is God

Reader: It is He who made us and we are His; we are His people the sheep of His pasture.

Cong: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise:

Reader: Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Cong: For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;

Reader: His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Young Children: **Looking, looking, looking shepherds watch their sheep**
 Yawning, yawning, yawning shepherds fall asleep
 Jumping, jumping, jumping they hear the angels sing
 Running, running, running, to see the baby king

Song: Let Our Gladness Have No End LW 69 LSB 381 or
 Glory to God LLV 12

Group One:

God sent Jesus down from above
God sends me to tell of His love

Group Two: **Children go where I send thee**

Group Three: **How shall I send thee?**

Group Four: **I'm gonna send thee two by two**

Children sing:

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee two by two

Two for His parents chosen, too
Three for the shepherd's bended knee
Four for the angels' singing tour
Five for the people counted alive
Born, born, born in Bethlehem

Reader:

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit, She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." Matt 1:18-22

Children: **Mary and Joseph were chosen by God to be Jesus' parents.**

Reader:

Mary and Joseph were indeed chosen by God. We are also numbered among the chosen. We are His children through our baptism and have been chosen to complete God's story. He sends us to spread His word, to do His work, and to share His love with the rest of His world. In John 15:16, Jesus tells us. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit."

Young Children: **Mary rocks and rocks and rocks the baby and sings Him soft to sleep**

**Joseph hugs and hugs and hugs the baby safely Babe
and Mother keep**

Song: *Away in a Manger* LW 64 LSB 364 or
What Do You Hear? LLV 11

Group One: **God sent Jesus down from above
God sends me to tell of His love**

Group Two: **Children go where I send thee**

Group Three: **How shall I send thee?**

Group Four: **I'm gonna send thee one by one**

Children sing:

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee
I'm gonna send thee one by one
To tell the world of God's own Son
Two for His parents chosen, too
Three for the shepherd's bended knee
Four for the angels' singing tour
Five for the people counted alive
Born, born, born in Bethlehem

Reader:

When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had been told. Luke 2:17-20

Children: **The Messiah is here! He will be with us forever.**

Reader:

God's Good News is too big to keep quiet. Our joy is too big to be held only in our hearts. Through the saving work of His Son, God commands us, enables us, and aids us to spread the news and make disciples. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20

Children sing:

Children go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one
To tell the world of God's own Son
Born, born, born in Bethlehem

All Children: **God sent Jesus down from above
God sends me to tell of His love**

Recessional: *Angels We Have Heard on High* LW 55 LSB 368

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Program Notes:

Songs:

"Children Go Where I Send Thee" is a spiritual and is public domain. The copyright for the arrangement and the extra verses written for this service is held by Paul and Kim Marxhausen.

Two songs have been listed for each opportunity. This allows for adjustment in the difficulty level of the service. Hymns can be sung by the congregation or older students. The second song is appropriate for early childhood age children. The songs can be found in the following books:

LW Lutheran Worship, Concordia Publishing House

LSB Lutheran Service Book, Concordia Publishing House

LLV Lift Little Voices, Concordia Publishing House

LOSP Little Ones Sing Praise, Concordia Publishing House

Group One, Two Three Four: These parts are intended for classes of younger children.

Children: These parts could be for a class of older children or for individual students.

Young Children: These parts are action rhymes intended for early childhood age children

Costumed Children: The costumed students move to places and act out narrative while it is being read. Props such as sheep and manger are helpful.

Town People
Census taker

Shepherds
Mary

Angels
Joseph

