

Peace Angels  
Kim Marxhausen

Processional: Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates LW 23 LSB 340

Narrator 1:

Our world is a world of fear and anxiety. Everything from terrorists, to illness, to job security, creeps into our hearts to create a life of fear. Children have fears, too. They worry about tasting new things, about getting shots at the doctor, and are afraid that family members might not come back at the end of the day to pick them up. Their parents and teachers play the part of angels to chase away their fears and leave them with peace. Five angels of the Christmas story are here to do the same for us. They remind us that the Baby Jesus came to bring peace.

Narrator 2:

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. John 14: 27

Group 1: **Do not be afraid**

Group 2: **Jesus comes to bring us peace.**

Narrator 1:

We walk with angels in our journey tonight: angels that bring amazing news, angels that bring the message, not of fear, but of peace. Our first angel visits an elderly priest, Zachariah who thought the angel's news was impossible. This story reminds us that with God all things are possible.

Narrator 2:

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to

him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. Luke 1:11-13

Class group 1: **For (God) is our peace. Ephesians 2:14**

Song: God Cares for You LLV 21 or  
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus LW 22 LSB 338

Group 1: **Do not be afraid.**

Group 2: **Jesus comes to bring us peace.**

Narrator 1:

Our second angel is Gabriel. He has been assigned to gently break the news to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus. Mary responded by singing of the blessings of God. We are blessed, too. Because of Jesus, we are children of God and He looks on us with favor. Just as He took away the fear of Mary, He takes away our fear, also. He leaves us with hearts filled with peace.

Narrator 2:

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus." Luke 1:26-31

Class group 2: **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him Romans 15:13**

Song: God Made a Promise LLV 10 or  
The King Shall Come LW 26 LSB 348

Group 1: **Do not be afraid.**

Group 2: **Jesus comes to bring us peace**

Narrator 1:

Joseph received the visit from the third angel of peace. His life was in turmoil when he discovered Mary was with child. The angel's words from God reassured Joseph that he did not need to fear doing what God asked him to do. God had already blessed his life and family. God expects much of us, also. We are to worship Him, follow His commands, raise our children in the wisdom and love of God and tell others about God's love. Our lives are full of busyness, inadequacy and fear but God replaces these with forgiveness and peace.

Narrator 2:

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." Matthew 1:20-23

Class group 3:

**I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! John 17:7**

Song: Little Jesus, Oh, So Small TLS 31 or  
Away in a Manger LW 64 LSB 365

Group 1: **Do not be afraid.**

Group 2: **Jesus comes to bring us peace.**

Narrator 1:

The shepherds loitering in the fields were surprised by our fourth and most famous Christmas angel of peace: the angel who first told the news of our Savior's birth. Think of the range of emotions the shepherds experienced in a matter of minutes. They went from boredom to terror to amazement and then joy as the fullness of the words of God settled on them. Think about what you have experienced over this past year. Maybe your life brought fear and worry. Maybe your life contained joy and amazement. Through it all, God has been with you bringing you the good news of grace and peace.

Narrator 2:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around 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 the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:8-11

Class group 4: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14**

Song: *Go Tell it on the Mountain* LO SP 84 SO GL 12 or  
*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* LW 47 LSB 386

Group 1: **Do not be afraid.**

Group 2: **Jesus comes to bring us peace.**

Narrator 1:

If you know the Christmas story well, you may be wondering who the fifth angel of peace might be. Christmas is not the end of the story. Our sin separated us from our Heavenly Father. He sent Jesus, His Son, to be a baby. Jesus is our Savior. He died on the cross and rose again on Easter morn. The fifth angel waits at the empty tomb to once again show us that God takes away our fear and puts His peace in its place.

Narrator 2:

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. . . The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. . . So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid." Matthew 28: 1-10

Narrator 1:

The angel's words filled the women with joy but did not take away their fear. Fear is a powerful thing. Only God can take away fear. Jesus' words and presence took away their fear and left their hearts full of joy and peace. Fear is gone. Peace has come. Joy is here. Spread the Good News.

Class group 5:

**May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. I Thessalonians 5:23**

Song: God Loves Me Dearly vs. 1,3,5 LO SP 84 SO GL 54 TL CS 9 or  
Love Came Down at Christmas LW 46

Group 1: **Do not be afraid**

Group 2: **Jesus comes to bring us peace**

Narrator 1:

The sincere praise of these little children of God has brought joy to our hearts this evening. May the blessing of a Savior of the grace and forgiveness, peace and joy that He made possible be yours today and always.

Narrator 2:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Romans 5:1

Recessional: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come LW 37 LSB 358

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Program Notes:

Song Selections:

Each opportunity for song lists an early childhood appropriate song for the children or a hymn for the congregation. The songs can be found in the following volumes.

LW Lutheran Worship, Concordia Publishing House

LSB Lutheran Service Book, Concordia Publishing House

LOSP Little Ones Sing Praise, Concordia Publishing House

TLCS The Little Christian's Songbook, Concordia Publishing House

LLV Lift Little Voices, Concordia Publishing House

SOGL Songs of God's Love. Concordia Publishing House

Parts:

Narrator 1 and 2: These parts are for the adults who are leading worship. If one adult leader stands to either side of the children their attention will be re-drawn to each side as the adults speak.

Group 1 and 2: These parts are for large children's groups. It is best to divide the large group of children into a left and right side with a teacher leading each group.

Class group 1,2,3,4,5: These are opportunities for each class to lead. The verses can be repeated, accompanied by rhythm instruments, including clapping and stamping. Or children can repeat the verse while waving scarves or ribbons.

