

The Christmas Code

2022 Advent Worship Series

Inspired by
The Christmas Code by O. S. Hawkins

Collaboratively produced by
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and Music and Creative Arts Ministries

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THE SALVATION ARMY | USA CENTRAL TERRITORY
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FOREWORD

The Christmas Code Advent Worship Series features weekly Code Words that unlock the blessings of God’s Word, reminding us that God’s greatest gift—His precious Son—is at the very heart of Advent.

The five-week series includes worship service materials for the four Sundays of Advent, Christmas Eve Service and Sunday after Christmas. Available in English and Spanish, the series includes music options, dramas, readings, and other Christmas resources.

This series is inspired by *The Christmas Code* by O. S. Hawkins (Countryman, 2017).

The worship resources are available on the Music and Creative Arts website:

<https://www.samusiccentral.org/>

[Click on the RESOURCES tab, then ADVENT 2022]

Video components are available on the Visual Communications website:

<http://wsvr.viscomapps.com/>

Weekly themes for the series are as follows:

Week One—November 27, 2022: **Code Word: PROMISES**

Week Two—December 4, 2022: **Code Word: HOPE**

Week Three—December 11, 2022: **Code Word: INCARNATION**

Week Four—December 18, 2022: **Code Word: GOSPEL**

***Christmas Eve/Day**—December 24, 2022 (or December 25, 2022): **Code Word: JESUS**

***Week Five**—December 25, 2022 (or January 1, 2023): **Code Word: ABUNDANCE**

*** Christmas 2022 falls on a Sunday. If you decide not to have a Christmas Eve Service, consider using it for Christmas Day!**

Services contain:

- Song Options
- Calls to Worship/Scripture/Responsive Readings
- Advent Wreath Readings
- Dramas/Children’s Moments
- Sample Sermon Ideas

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a ***suggestion***. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The meeting outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

APPRECIATION

In producing this series, the Corps and Community Mission Department expresses its indebtedness to **Peggy Thomas** (Norridge Citadel, Illinois), **Martyn Thomas** (THQ, Music and Creative Arts Ministries), **Katie Laidlaw** (THQ, Youth Department) and **Mark Bender** (THQ, Corps and Community Mission Department) for their creativity, editing, and hard work. Special thanks to **Majors Catherine and Peter Mount** (Norridge Citadel, Illinois) and **Lieutenants Adam and Amanda Hines** (Lakewood Temple, Minnesota) for their creation of the sermon materials. Translation into Spanish has been expertly provided through **Alfredo Martinez** (THQ, Intercultural Ministries).

With grateful appreciation for the inspirational writings of:

Hawkins, O. S.. *The Christmas Code*. Nashville, Tennessee: Countryman, 2017.
This material was originally published as part of *The Believer’s Code*, ISBN 978-0-7180-9953-4.

Tripp, Paul David. *Come Let Us Adore Him*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2017.

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CONTENTS

Week 1 – Code Word: PROMISES

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Surprise!*
- Children’s Moment: *Promises and Prophecy*
- Sermon: **Code Word: PROMISES** – Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:29-38

Week 2 – Code Word: HOPE

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Wishful Thinking*
- Children’s Moment: *Hope*
- Sermon: **Code Word: HOPE** – Romans 3-5; Matthew 1:18-21

Week 3 – Code Word: INCARNATION

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Global Positioning*
- Children’s Moment: *Hope*
- Sermon: **Code Word: INCARNATION** – Philippians 2:5-8

Week 4 – Code Word: GOSPEL

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Bad, Worse, Worst*
- Children’s Moment: *Gospel: Good News/Bad News*
- Sermon: **Code Word: GOSPEL** – Luke 2; Genesis 1-3; Romans 6:5-10

Christmas Eve – Code Word: JESUS

- Worship Service Outline
- Devotional: **Code Word: JESUS** – Hebrews 1:1-3

Week 5 – Code Word: ABUNDANCE

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Once or Twice*
- Children’s Moment: *Abundance*
- Sermon: **Code Word: ABUNDANCE** – 2 Peter 1:2-11

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This worship series has an abundance of content. Please feel free to select what you want to use, rearrange items, or add your own ideas to the services.

WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. To better accommodate changes, these worship service outlines are provided on the Music and Creative Arts website:

<https://www.samusiccentral.org/>

[Click on the RESOURCES tab, then ADVENT 2022]

If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed.

VIDEO

The Music and Creative Arts and Visual Communications Departments have produced videos of many of the worship service components, which can be used for both in-person or online worship. Please access them through the Visual Communications website: <http://wsvr.viscomapps.com/>

MUSIC

Music is an essential component of any worship service. It is a signal to unite and begin. It establishes the setting for praise and meditation. It adds variety, vitality and focus to worship. It can also be a means of learning and retaining spiritual truth, as well as expressing and sharing our faith.

These worship outlines are designed with the smallest to the largest congregation in mind, allowing for live (piano, ensemble, band, etc.) and recorded (compact discs) accompaniment.

All CD accompaniment songs/choruses have been chosen from the **Hymn Tune Accompaniment (HT)** and **Hallelujah Choruses (HC)** series. Very often an optional song or chorus is given which would fit at that point in the service in place of the original

choice. You may wish to sing several of these songs as an additional worship time.

The information for each service component is listed in a grid format as in the following example:

Song# – First Line (SB) or Title (HC/SS/CF)	Tune# – TB Title	CD Disc#-Track# (#verses on HT)
SB#100/HC#280/SS#186/CF#5 – Angels, from the realms of glory	TB-407 – Regent Square HC-280 SS-186 CF-5	HTD4-T12 (4 vs.) HCD26-T20
Additional Optional Songs		
SB#114/HC#146/SS#137 – Light of the world (Here I am to Worship)	TB-444 – Here I am to worship HC-146 SS-137	No HT CD HCD13-T16

Accompaniment abbreviations/examples:

- SB** Salvation Army Song Book – words
- TB** Salvation Army Tune Book – tunes
- HC** Hallelujah Choruses
- SS** Songs of Salvation
- CF** Carolers Favorites

- HTD4-T12 (4 vs.)** Hymn Tune Accompaniment Disc #4-Track #12 (plays 4 verses)
- HC-280** Hallelujah Choruses #280
- HCD26-T20** Hallelujah Choruses Disc #26-Track #20
- SS-186** Songs of Salvation #186

Careful attention is needed when singing songs in a medley. When planning and selecting songs it is important to understand the difference between songs about God (a horizontal perspective) and songs sung to God (a vertical perspective). There is a generally held principle that these perspectives should not shift back and forth. For instance, if you were to sing “O Worship the King” (horizontal song) and “Shout to the Lord” (vertical song) consecutively, it is more conducive to worship to sing “O Worship the King” first and then “Shout to the Lord”, rather than the reverse. Once a vertical song is sung, it needs some type of resolution, whether it be a prayer or another vertical song. Worship “moments” can lose their impact if care is not taken in this area. Also, try to avoid mixing songs with radically different tempos or styles.

Vocal benediction options have been included for each service which can be an effective way to end each service.

CALLS TO WORSHIP, RESPONSIVE READINGS and LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

Services usually begin with a Call to Worship which introduces the theme of the service.

A responsive reading has been included in each service, which is the scripture reading for the service. It can be replaced by one person reading the scripture passage. A traditional Advent candle reading is also included, and could be presented each week by a different family, small group or ministry (women's ministry, men's ministry, corps cadets, etc.) in your corps.

MISSIONS MOMENT – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Code Word for week 2 is "Hope," and is a perfect opportunity to include a Missions Moment. For ideas, see the resources produced by the World Missions Department: centralmissions.org

DRAMAS and CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Drama sketches and Children's Moments have been included in the series to add variety and depth to worship. The experience of *seeing* the Word portrayed, in addition to *hearing* the Word proclaimed, can provide worshipers with increased understanding and perspective. Focusing a special moment in the service for children brings all ages into worship with new perspectives (as well as some laughter!).

While it is not always necessary to memorize a script, memorization enhances any dramatic presentation when time and proficiency permit. Props are kept to a minimum. It is important to take time to read through the script before using this series to know what preparations will be needed.

SOURCE MATERIAL FOR SERMONS

Source material for the sermons are provided as a guide in preparation for a total worship experience. *Each sermon included should be viewed as a catalyst for preaching, not a verbatim reading.* These will be most effective if they are adapted, using personalized illustrations that relate to your specific congregation. Original illustrations have been left in but should only be used as a guideline.

SUPPORT RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERIES

The following support resources may be purchased through Trade Central:
<http://satradecentral.org/>

Keyboard/Instrumental Accompaniment

- The Salvation Army Song Book* (2015) – vocal
- The Salvation Army Tune Books* (2015) – piano/band
- Hallelujah Choruses Songbooks 1-27* (#1-290)
- Hallelujah Choruses Instrumental Series 1-27* or
- Hallelujah Choruses Piano/Rhythm Book* (#1-290)
- Songs of Salvation* – song book for ARCs and Harbor Light Centers

Carolers Favorites – vocal/piano/band

CD Accompaniment

Hymn Tune Accompaniments compact discs (12 total)

Hallelujah Choruses accompaniment compact discs 1-26

Sources Cited:

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<https://www.liturgylink.net/tag/susannahdb/>

Gire, Ken. *Moments With the Savior*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2016.

Hamilton, Roddy. “Advent Blessing” on nkchurch.org.uk. December 2, 2018.

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Jeremiah, David. *Why the Nativity?* Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale Momentum, 2021.

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Biblegateway. 2000. “BibleGateway.Com: A Searchable Online Bible in over 150 Versions and 50 Languages.” Biblegateway.Com. BibleGateway. 2000. <https://www.biblegateway.com/>.

NIV Worship Bible. 2000. London: Hodder & Stoughton.

The Holy Bible—Versions Quoted:

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(VOICE) THE VOICE BIBLE, copyright © 2008 by Ecclesia Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Music Sources:

Hallelujah Choruses. 1992-2020. Vol. 1–26. Hoffman Estates, IL: The Salvation Army USA Central Territory.

Songs of Salvation: The Salvation Army Official Song Book for Adult Rehabilitation Centers and

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The Salvation Army Carolers Favorites. West Nyack, NY: The Salvation Army USA Eastern Territory.

The Song Book of The Salvation Army. 2015. North American Edition. Alexandria, VA: The Salvation Army National Headquarters.