

A blue rectangular banner with a bokeh effect of white and light blue dots. The words "Merry Christmas" are written in a white, cursive, handwritten-style font, centered on the banner.

Merry
Christmas

Candlelight Service

Focus Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas. Take time to focus on the gift God gave us through His Son, Jesus Christ, as you celebrate Christmas.

Fun Did you have a favorite Christmas tradition or Christmas memory? What would an ideal Christmas celebration look like for you?

Review Key Scripture: Luke 2:11

1. Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus was born, the angel of the Lord announced that born this day was our Savior, Christ the Lord. Christ comes from a Greek word that means anointed, and in the Old Testament, the word was Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed One.

2. Jesus is the anointed One.

Prophets, priests, and kings were the only anointed ones in the Old Testament. Luke 2 states that Jesus is the anointed One, which means He is our Prophet, Priest, and King. He is our Prophet, which means we can hear God. Jesus came so you and I can have a relationship with Him and so God can speak directly to us. Jesus is our Priest, which means we can enter the presence of God. Jesus is our King, which means He rules over everything in our lives. We can live victorious because Jesus is our King.

3. Christmas is the celebration of Christ.

Other than Jesus, the story of Christmas is ordinary. Jesus was born in an ordinary town, Bethlehem, to ordinary parents, and laid in an ordinary manger. But what is extraordinary is that Jesus came, our Christ, our anointed One, our Messiah. Christmas means the celebration of Christ. During this season, keep Christ in your Christmas.

Group Dynamics Idea During the candlelight service, Pastor Robert took time to ask everyone to identify one area of their lives where they need victory. Allow for time in your group to ask everyone this same question. What is one area where they would like to experience victory this coming year? Allow members to share and pray for these specific needs.

Discuss

1. What does Christmas mean to you?
2. Read Luke 2:11–15. What stands out to you about these verses? Why do you think God chose such an ordinary beginning for Jesus?
3. Pastor Robert shared that Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King. Is this a difficult idea for you to process in our modern world? Why or why not?
4. What would it look like for you to have Jesus as your Prophet, Priest, and King? How would this impact your day to day life?
5. God gave us the greatest gift through His Son, Jesus. Take time for each person to share some of the ways they appreciate the gift of Jesus.
6. Ask what the Holy Spirit is saying and then respond in your heart. If you have never given your life to God, now is the time. If you have already asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, then ask yourself if there is an area of your life that you can commit or recommit to God as a gift.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus is the anointed One.
- Jesus is our Messiah.
- Christmas is the celebration of Christ.
- Keep Christ in Christmas.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, Your only begotten Son. Thank You that through Jesus, we can hear Your voice speaking to us, we can experience Your presence through Jesus our Priest, and we can

be victorious through Jesus our King. We ask You to reign and rule over every area of our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Be intentional about keeping in touch with those in your group this Christmas season. It may be as simple as sending a card, posting an encouraging word on social media, or making a phone call. You may also want to get everyone together to play games and celebrate with one another.