

# Love Came Down

## SERVICE GUIDE

The *Love Came Down* Christmas Service Guide contains *everything* you need (underscores, readings, tracks and Christmas carols) for about 26 minutes of your Christmas Eve worship or Christmas Sunday worship. This versatile service can be led with as little as a capable pianist and worship leader, or with a praise team, praise band and/or a full SATB or SAB choir (plus orchestral instruments with the instrumental edition.) If you don't have any musicians, lead the service with the stereo tracks, or even mix tracks with live performances. If your ministry uses in-ears and click tracks, try the Multitracks addition.

Unlike my other Christmas Service Guides, *Love Came Down* is a little more on the “production” side. The service starts out with the congregational sing alongs *Angels From the Realms of Glory* and *Angels We Have Heard On High* (with a contrapuntal background vocal part for your praise team.)

After a strong soloist with praise team/choir sings *O Holy Night* there's a slot for the sermon. Transitioning out of the sermon is *Peace On Earth* (teach this new Christmas worship song to your congregation during Sundays in December) and candlelighting with *Silent Night*. Finish out the service with a worship leader and praise team/choir performing *Love Came Down* and let your praise band jam on a reprise while people leave.

Get as elaborate as you want. Do all the readings with one person or select different elders/deacons and/or members of the congregation for each reading (make sure the people you select have expression and are committed to practicing with the included demos.) Have a pianist or a full band lead the carols. I actually prefer the more intimate setting of a piano, acoustic guitar and perhaps a bass guitar.

My prayer is that this guide will help your people catch their breath and remember the true meaning of Christmas as they worship the newborn King.

*Don Chapman*  
*HymnCharts.com*

## Ideas for using the *Love Came Down* Service Guide:

### >What you'll need to provide for your service:

**1. Up to 3 narrators.** One person can do all the narration or pick a different person for each narration. Burn a CD or email your narrators the MP3 vocal demo and MP3 track so they can practice their timing. *The key to the service guide is the uninterrupted music flow!*

**2. Sermon.** There's a slot for the pastor's sermon.

**3. Alternate Scripture.** The KJV version is provided here for the Scripture readings, but you may have a favorite translation you'd rather use. Try "The Message" version for a contemporary reading.

**4. Candles.** You'll need candles if you choose to have the congregation light candles during *Silent Night*. Find small candles with wax drip guards and purchase enough for every member of the congregation. Have the candles under their seats. The pastor, worship leader or ushers will light their own candles, then light the candles of people at the start of each row, then these people will light the candle of the person sitting next to them, and so on.

### >Tips for using the *Love Came Down* service guide:

**1. Scarce musicians.** It can be difficult for smaller churches to find musicians on Christmas Eve. Burn a CD of the underscores and vocal demos and play it in lieu of using musicians.

**2. Keyboard player.** The entire service can be conducted with a single, capable pianist. Have a keyboard player accompany the narration by playing the underscores under the narration. You will want to have a short rehearsal with the pianist and narrators to make sure their timing is perfect. **NOTE: I've created a keyboard-driven version of the song *Love Came Down*** in case you're performing it with just piano or a small group. Otherwise, with a full band, play the non-keyboard driven version.

**3. Change keys.** Finale files are provided which will allow you to change the key if you own Finale software. However, *I do not recommend changing the keys as the underscores are designed to transition you from song to song in the keys I've selected.*

**4. Logo.** A Photoshop file and TIFF file is included of the "Love Came Down" logo so you can reproduce it in your bulletin.

**5. PowerPoint files.** Standard definition PowerPoint files are provided for the songs. Widescreen blank slides are included if you want to build your own slides in that format.

**6. Solos/Special Music.** If you want a longer Christmas Eve service and have the musicians to pull it off, add a solo or choir special to the mix. You might include a favorite solo from one of your Christmas Sundays or a choir special from a cantata performed by a smaller ensemble if your full choir isn't available.

**7. Underscore 1:** I think I got a little carried away with the Disneyesque orchestration on Underscore 1! Don't let that scare you, it will sound fine (and more intimate) with just piano, or even an added orchestral instrument or two. A flute and cello would sound nice!

**8. Peace On Earth:** I've included a 2 verse track version of *Peace On Earth* - try using it on Sundays during December to teach the song, then save the 3rd verse for Christmas Eve.

**9. Underscore 3** is designed to be background music after *Peace On Earth* for the pastor or worship leader to invite the congregation to light their candles during *Silent Night*. It's interactive and can be repeated as needed. I'd say 2 minutes is plenty. If you're not using candles, insert a prayer or another Scripture.

**10. Narration 3** is used over the introduction to the final song *Love Came Down*. There isn't much time so the narrator needs to practice spitting those words out!

**11. Love Came Down Postlude.** Immediately after the song *Love Came Down* I've created an instrumental postlude to be played while people leave. It starts with a *very short* piano interlude that lasts about 12 seconds - just long enough for the worship leader or pastor to very quickly wish everyone a blessed Christmas and thanks for coming. Keep it brief! Then the key changes and the band kicks in.

### >Using Tracks:

If you plan on using tracks for your service, here's how it works. Instead of building your service and burning a CD with the individual tracks in order (which is fine if you want to do it that way,) use the "Combined" tracks. The "Combined" track folders are MP3s with songs and underscores that flow seamlessly one to the other. This way your worship will flow with minimal starting/stopping.

The "Stereo Tracks" and "Vocal Demos" folders contain all the songs and underscores as separate MP3s. Use these if you want more control over your service. Perhaps you want to perform the underscores live with narrators and a pianist, then sing with tracks, or vice-versa. Because of the interactive nature of Underscore 3 I haven't included it as a stand alone track, nor have I included the postlude as a stand alone track.

Powerpoint and some worship projection software will automatically play MP3s. Or try playing the tracks from an iPod or other MP3 player. Whether you go digital or use a burned CDROM to play the tracks, **please make sure you test your setup with a full run-through!**

### **>How to use this service guide:**

Each part of the *Love Came Down* Service Guide is on one page. Print out all the pages for all your narrators so they can follow along and mark their parts.

The final page is a one page, at-a-glance overview so those involved can see the entire program.

If you're using the MP3 underscores, make sure the narrators have a chance to practice with them. Feel free to burn a CD or email the MP3s to them so they can make sure their narrations fit the music. The keyboard underscores are composed with repeats making them more flexible.

Dead space kills a worship service! Both the keyboard underscores and MP3 underscores are designed to help you flow directly into the next song. If you're using the MP3s, wait until you hear the final chord - the chord will ring out for a few seconds giving you time to start playing the introduction to the next song.

### **>2 service guides in 1!**

Make sure you've also downloaded the *Peace On Earth* set starter with your *Love Came Down* zip downloads. *Love Came Down* is the full 6 song service and the *Peace On Earth* set starter contains the songs *Angels From the Realms*, *Angels We Have Heard On High* and *Peace On Earth* - 3 songs from *Love Came Down* that make for a perfect December praise set. Use *Love Came Down* for your Christmas Eve program one year and the *Peace On Earth* set starter the next year.

Questions or comments? Contact us at [h2ghelp@heartstogod.com](mailto:h2ghelp@heartstogod.com).